Almadro bares Erap pressure to help Dante Tan

STORY BELOW, COLUMN 3

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PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2001 ★ 38 PAGES 3 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 33 P15

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Did Atong offer to testify vs Erap?

BY DONA Z. PAZZIBUGAN AND ROCKY NAZARENO

IT'S once again the word of Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson against that of Charlie "Atong" Ang. And impeached President Estrada couldn't care less.

Singson, who had a falling out with Ang

DID/ A16

'Atong kidnap mastermind'

Deposits of Erap, Loi, Guia, Laarni, Joy in bank bared

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA

ASIDE from First Lady Luisa "Loi" Estrada, President Estrada, "Jose Velarde," "Kevin Garcia" and the President's mistresses Guia Gomez, Laarni Enriquez and Joy Melendrez maintained bank accounts with Citibank NA, the House prosecution panel yesterday told the impeachment court.

Each one of the seven names has a savings account, a checking account, a time deposit and investments in long-term or short-term commercial papers, treasury bills and other government bonds and investment instruments, according to the prosecution.

The prosecution earlier maintained that the President was Jose Velarde and Kevin Garcia, both of whom have accounts with other banks.

Prosecutor Oscar Moreno said the President and the First Lady also maintained a foreign currency deposit account with Citibank.

DAY 18

Last week, the prosecution disclosed that two checks totaling P8.4 million issued by Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson were deposited into the First Lady's bank account with the Citibank Greenhills branch on Oct. 4, 1999.

Moreno said the funds kept by the President in Citibank should be forfeited in favor of the government because he did not disclose the funds in his 1999 Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

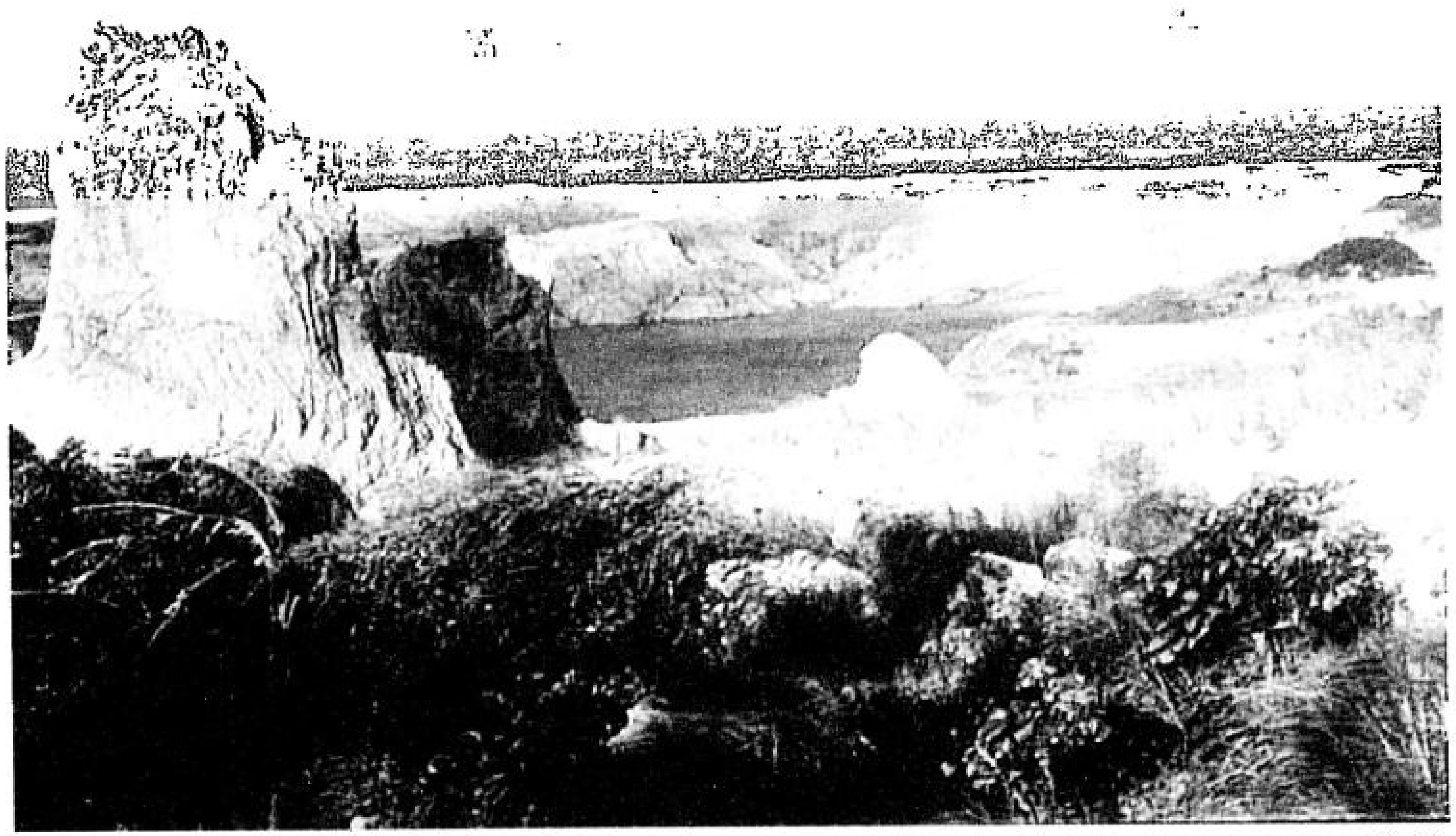
The President's alleged undeclared wealth is part of the second Article of Impeachment (graft and corruption) leveled against him.

Victor Lim, vice president of Citibank, testified that the bank had tried to ask the First Lady for the source of the P8.4-million check deposited into her account on Oct. 4, 1999.

The inquiry was triggered by the fact that the deposit exceeded the threshold set by the bank for her account. Lim said the threshold policy was meant to deter money laundering.

The disclosure of the numerous bank accounts held by the President and his women, however, was not admitted as evidence after the defense

DEPOSITS/ A6



PORTRAIT of tranquility, Panian pit in Semirara Island, Antique, is where the MMDA plans to dump Metro Manila's garbage. Officials of 5 island provinces and the Visayas provinces oppose the plan. *(See related story in Metro, A19)* NEREO LUJAN/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

Semirara dump deal raises stink

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA AND DORIS C. DUMLAO.

WITH the garbage problem nearing crisis proportions, the Senate blue ribbon and environment committees are preparing to look into the government's "suspiciously swift decision" to put up a temporary waste disposal facility for Metro Manila's trash on Antique's Semirara Island.

In a privilege speech yesterday, Sen. Loren Legarda deplored the decision of the Presidential Committee on Flagship Projects to put up the waste facility on Semirara—a move that, she said, had united in protest the residents of not only Antique but the entire island of Panay as well.

Legarda, author of the Solid Waste Management Act, said the government would pay DM Consunji Inc. (DMCI) and R-II Builders around P1.4 billion for the two-year operation of the 20-hectare facility.

"The problem of my fellow Antiqueños, as I have been made to understand, is that the flagship committee made a suspiciously swift decision," said Legarda, who is vice chair of the environment committee.

"The project's plans were never publicly finalized and hardly discussed. The first public consultation was held in San Jose during one Thursday in December and was followed the next day by a meeting in Semirara. In a span of only two days, the interim facility was a done deal," she said.

The committee is chaired by Robert Aventajado, President Estrada's adviser on flagship projects.

SEMIRARA/ A4

AS IF "jueteng," "masiao" and tobacco tax kickbacks weren't enough, here's another controversy involving Charlie "Atong" Ang.

A leader of a private crime watchdog yesterday said a relative of a kidnap victim had revealed that President Estrada's controversial friend himself masterminded the abduction.

Teresita Ang-See, spokesperson of the Citizens' Action Against Crime, said the Chinese-Filipino community had reported Ang's alleged involvement in at least three kidnappings to Mr. Estrada.

"In fact, one relative said Ang was the mastermind of the kidnapping," she told the INQUIRER last night.

But Ang-See said police could take no action against Ang as the relative as well as families of other kidnap victims refused to cooperate in the police investigation and give direct evidence against him.

The kidnapping of prominent Chinese-Filipinos allegedly masterminded by Ang happened between 1996 and 1998.

Ang denied Ang-See's allegations. "I've been hearing about such reports for some time . . . But I don't go to Chinatown and I have no friends there," he told the INQUIRER.

In a radio interview earlier Tuesday, Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson said Ang was "well-known in Chinatown" as an intermediary on ransom demands.

ATONG/ A16

Former solon shows deft handling of Article 3 rap

BY RAUL J. PALABRICA

ANALYSIS

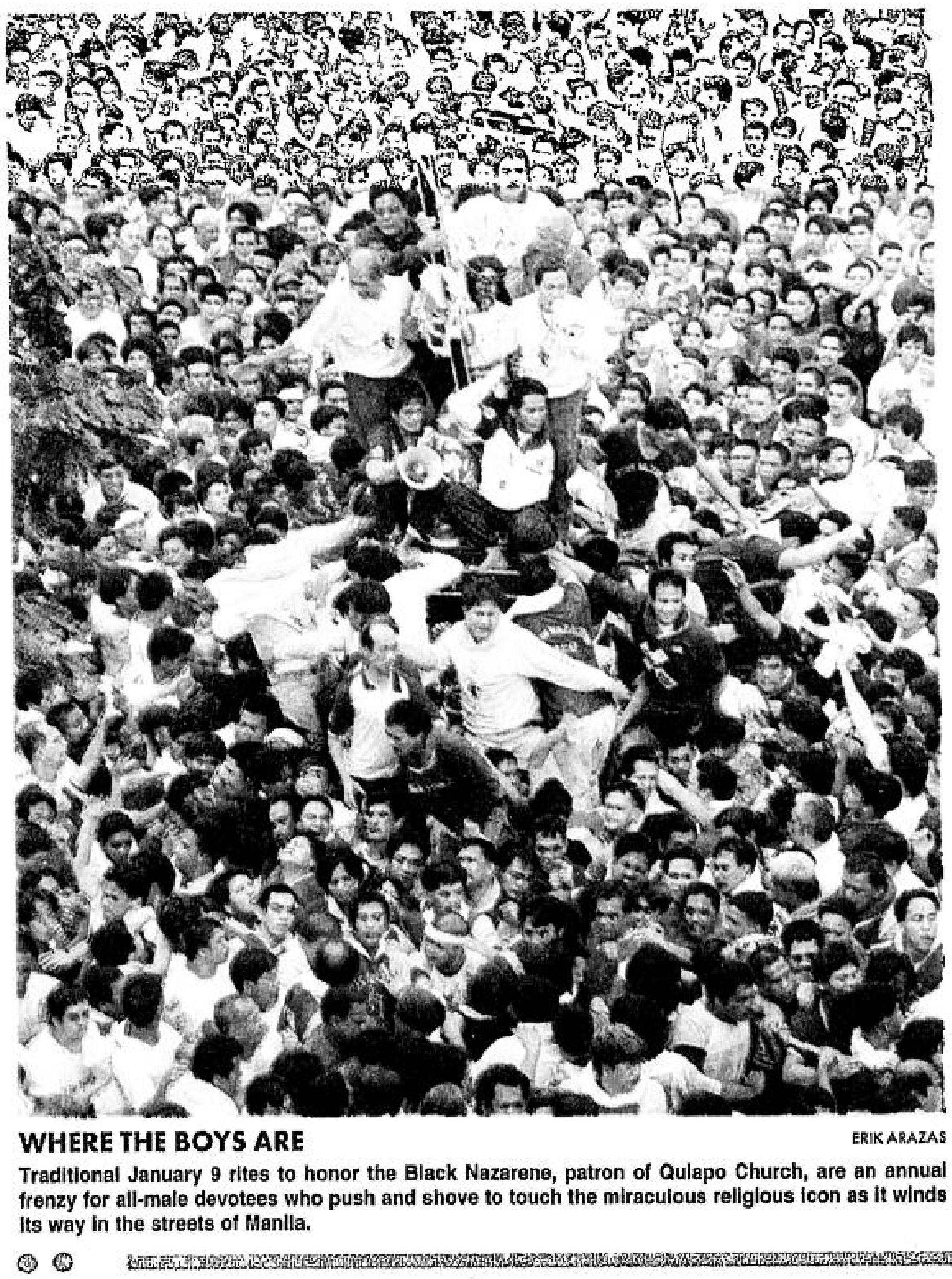
THE PROSECUTION tried, but failed, to do a repeat of the Clarissa Ocampo episode with Victor Lim, head of branch banking of Citibank.

The arguments invoked by the prosecution to justify an Ocampo-like direct examination of Lim failed to convince Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. into agreeing to the move.

For the first time in the impeachment trial, the names of some of the alleged mistresses of President Estrada were formally introduced into the record of the proceedings. Guia Gomez, Laarni Enriquez and Joy Melendrez. Reference was made also to Jose Velarde and a certain Kevin Garcia.

The names were mentioned by Prosecutor Rep. Oscar Moreno in the course of the "proffer of evidence" he was forced to make when he was unable to pose questions to Lim that were meant to elicit information about their bank accounts

FORMER/ A16



WHERE THE BOYS ARE ERIK ARAZAS

Traditional January 9 rites to honor the Black Nazarene, patron of Quiapo Church, are an annual frenzy for all-male devotees who push and shove to touch the miraculous religious icon as it winds its way in the streets of Manila.

Almadro: Erap knew Dante Tan had bribed Yasay but did nothing

BY CATHY C. YAMSUAN

PRESIDENT Estrada allegedly knew that his friend Dante Tan of BW Resources Corp. had bribed Perfecto Yasay, former chair of the Securities and Exchange Commission, but did nothing about it.

Yasay was then investigating Tan for insider trading and stock manipulation.

Ruben Almadro, former chief of the compliance and surveillance group (CSG) of the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE), told the Senate impeachment court last night that he was present in Malacañang in February last year when the President nonchalantly revealed the bribery.

"I was shocked!" Almadro said. "Here I was facing the President of the Republic, the chief executor, the chief enforcer of the laws and he was telling me that his friend had bribed a public official and yet he did nothing to take action against the bribe giver or bribe taker."

The former head of the CSG said the President told a group, which included himself and then PSE president Jose Luis "Nonoy" Yulo, that Tan had told the President that he "fixed *(inayos)*" Yasay purportedly to clear his name.

Yasay had earlier accused Mr. Estrada of pressuring him to clear Tan.

Tan was found to have manipulated shares in BW Resources to create artificial demand and earn around P820 million in June 1999, Almadro said, citing an

ALMADRO/ A6

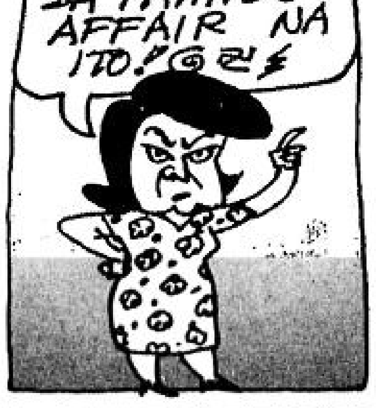
Fortun brothers may run out of luck for Delia stunt

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA

THE BROTHERS Fortun, both members of President Estrada's defense team at his impeachment trial, are in very real danger of being cited for contempt because of what transpired at the court Monday.

"There was misrepresentation from start to finish, and therefore we are seriously looking into a possible citation for contempt," Senator-Judge Franklin Drilon told reporters before

FORTUN/ A16


ANG LAKI NAMAN NG AKING TONG SA FAMILY AFFAIR NA ITO!

'Ejercito' lady grouses about 'jueteng' payoff

BY VOLT CONTRERAS

DOES "jueteng" run in the family of President Estrada?

While the patriarch has denied any involvement in the illegal numbers game, a family member readily admitted it, and to the police, too.

In a letter, an alleged niece of the President, Gerra Ejercito,

EJERCITO/ A4

MALI TALAGA ANG GIYERANG YAN !!!

MINDANAO CONFLICT

No money, no war, says Aventajado

DAVAO CITY—Presidential Adviser on Flagship Projects Robert Aventajado yesterday said he was "not sure" if the country can survive another "all-out war" against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Citing the economic crisis, Aventajado said the government could hardly raise funds for its flagship projects due to the huge budget deficit.

He said his informal talks with MILF leaders on the resumption of formal peace negotiations were moving "in a brisk way" until top police officials linked the MILF to the spate of bombings in Metro Manila on Dec. 30.

On Saturday, President Estrada said military operations against the MILF would continue.

Calling himself a "man of peace," Aventajado said he preferred negotiations with the Moro rebels. But he said the government's action depended on how the Cabinet's "Cluster E" on national security would evaluate the situation and how the President would act on its recommendation.

He said "it would be difficult for the government to continue with the talks" if the MILF was indeed behind the bombings.

"You can only negotiate if you have the right environment for it. But if the evidence about the bombings is strong, how can you negotiate?" Aventajado asked.

Director General Panfilo Lacson, chief of the Philippine National Police, had said he was "100-percent sure" that the MILF was behind the attacks that resulted in the death of at least 22 persons.

Human Rights Commissioner Nasser Marohomsalic said the government "cannot afford" another shooting war with the rebels of a magnitude similar to last year's episode.

He expressed fears that reports of an impending war were merely a "prelude to (the President being given) emergency powers."

"How can they stifle public opinion (against war), how can they raise money if they don't (take a) shortcut the budgetary process through the grant of emergency powers?" Marohomsalic said.

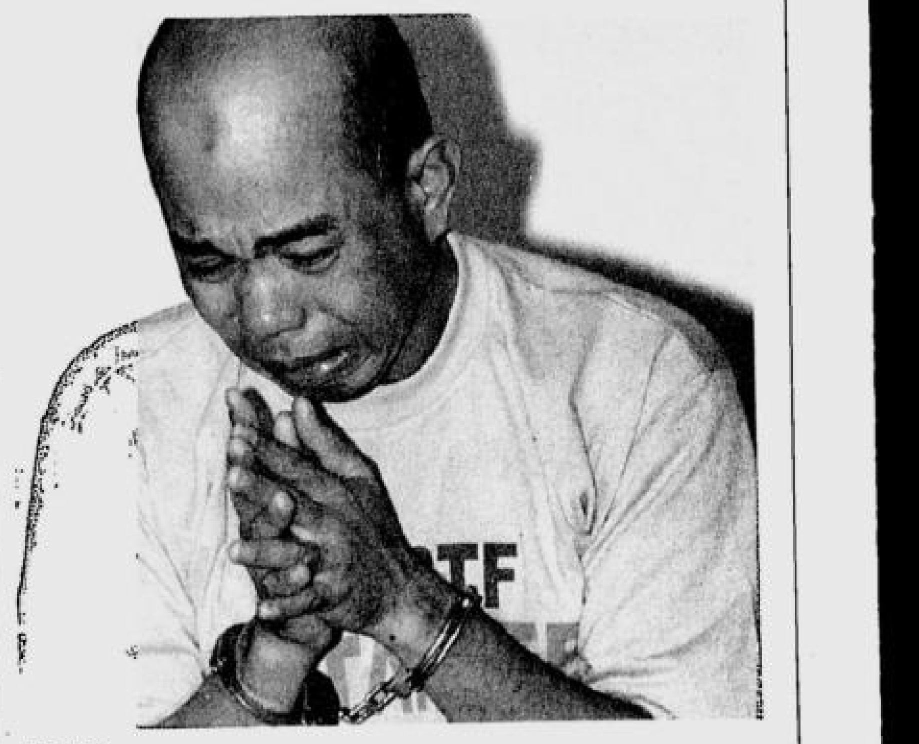
He said the government's war footing has "no justification" despite the PNP findings about the bombings.

He disclosed that on Dec. 30, while he was visiting Marawi City, he saw government troops on board trucks going to Lanao.

Marohomsalic said he was informed "by an A-1 source" that police provincial commanders were called to a meeting before Dec. 30 that two more Marine brigades would be deployed to Mindanao, particularly in Central Mindanao, "within the (Camp) Abubakar complex and the eastern part of Lanao."

Abubakar, the MILF's main stronghold, fell into government hands at the height of last year's military offensives.

Marohomsalic said police officials and a number of Army officials in Lanao del Sur had objected to a fresh deployment of troops because they can handle the peace and order problem in the province.. *Jowel F. Canuday, Edwin O. Fernandez and Carolyn O. Arguillas, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



ABBAS

Bomb suspect tags Moro rebs

A SUSPECT in the Dec. 30 spate of deadly bombings in Manila claimed yesterday that a Moro Islamic Liberation Front rebel bought a car which was blown up at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Ismael Abbas, cousin of a lawyer for Moro Islamic Liberation Front guerrillas, wept as he denied he helped carry out the blasts that killed 22 people and injured more than 100 on Rizal Day.

But he said MILF member Mohammed Guindolongan, alias Abu Sinap, told him to make a P3,000-down payment on a used red Mitsubishi Lancer that police said was later packed with explosives and blown up in a car park at the airport.

"I will point to him," Abbas said as police briefly presented him to the media. "He's Abu Sinap. I deny being a member of the MILF."

Abbas said Guindolongan told him to make the initial payment and that Guindolongan paid the balance of P35,000 later, on Dec. 11.

Police are seeking Guindolongan and five other suspected MILF members charged in absentia with multiple charges of murder and attempted murder.

They also said they found blasting caps, timing fuses, detonation cords and other bomb materials during a raid Monday on a house rented by Guindolongan in Davao City.

The MILF, which is fighting for a separate homeland in Mindanao, has denied responsibility for the bombings.

The airport blast injured six people and was powerful enough to send the car engine flying 17 meters, police said.

Police said Abbas was positively identified by witnesses as among the persons who alighted from the car moments before it exploded.

They also said they had Army surveillance photographs showing Abas, Guindolongan and another suspect driving the same car around Metro Manila earlier.

Four other explosions around the same time hit a train, a bus, an abandoned gasoline station and a park.

Police said analyses of fragments and debris recovered from the five blast sites indicated that the bombs used were similarly constructed.

Police also said they earlier seized MILF documents allocating P730,000 pesos to a "feasibility project" related to bomb attacks in Manila.

They said the project also mentioned possible bombings of movie theaters, shopping malls, and light rail transit stations. *AP, with a report from Dave Veridiano*

Erap orders drive vs terror

PRESIDENT Estrada ordered the Manila police yesterday to intensify a campaign against terrorists following a wave of deadly bombings around the metropolis that killed 22 people.

Mr. Estrada said the Dec. 30 bombings in Manila "angered me so much" because they came in the middle of preparations to welcome the new year.

"We unite in grief and anger at this 'terroristic' act which happened in the midst of the holiday season," Mr. Estrada said in a speech marking the 100th anniversary of the Manila's police force.

He praised the police for their "quick and immediate response" to the attacks and their continued vigilance to prevent further bombings.

"But I must urge you to further intensify your campaign against terrorists because at stake here are the lives of our people, particularly children who are the most helpless."

Police have blamed the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front based in Mindanao for the attacks which also left about 100 people wounded.

The Department of Justice on Monday filed murder charges against several leaders of the MILF in connection with the bomb attacks, which police said were carried out by a 12-man unit of Afghan-trained rebels.

The MILF has denied the allegations, saying it targeted troops in the south and not civilians. It also warned of further bloodshed if its leaders were taken into custody.

Hostilities between the MILF and government troops flared up after Mr. Estrada ordered the suspension of peace talks in the wake of the bombings.

The MILF is the country's largest remaining Muslim insurgent group waging a 22-year struggle for an independent Islamic state in the South. *AFP*

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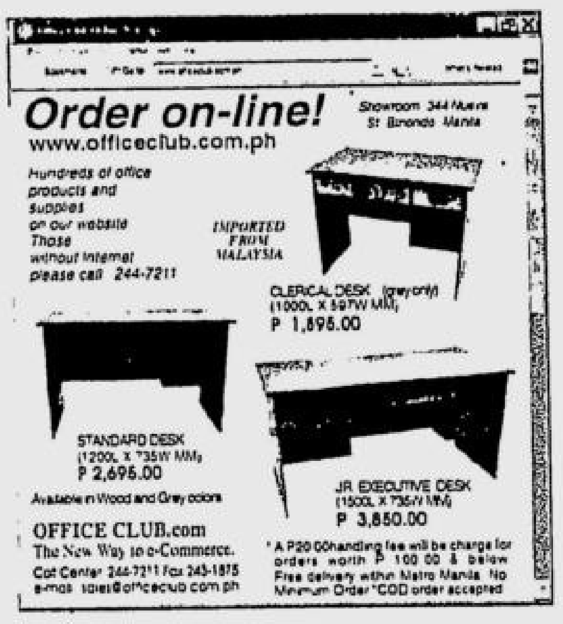

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Gloria bucks new war in Mindanao

By Christine Avendaño

VICE President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo yesterday led opposition leaders in assailing Malacañang's decision to send government troops back to Mindanao, saying this will cause the economy to plunge further.

Macapagal said what the government should start doing is bringing back peace to the South as the region's tourism and investment climate have already been severely affected by the government's all-out war with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front last year.

She expressed the belief that the political and economic crisis now gripping the country will "not easily be solved" with the Dec. 30 bombings in Metro Manila that killed 18 people.

She said the current crisis in the country has become "more grave and sinister" by the bombings.

"This means, in turn, that the road to the restoration of good and legitimate government will be hard," Macapagal told the weekly Bulung Pulungan forum at the Westin Philippine Plaza hotel in Pasay City.

"And because of this, investor confidence, and the local economy, will face many more shocks before things can settle down and growth resumes."

At the forum, opposition leader Batangas Rep. Ralph Recto said that the return of government troops in Mindanao will only further bloat the budget deficit.

Recto said during the government's all-out war against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, it spent P30 million a day or P1 billion a month.

"This will only add up to our budgetary deficit," Recto said.

Bohol Rep. Ernesto Herrera said that the government has already no money and is in fact "saddled with P2 trillion in debts."

If the Palace was sending the troops back to the South to flush out MILF troops for their alleged participation in the Dec. 30 bombings, Macapagal expressed doubts if the Moro separatist group was capable of carrying them out.

She said that the MILF is known to have no capability to launch such operations in Metro Manila and pointed to the fact that the Moro rebel group has denied being behind it.

"Usually, separatist groups would declare being behind such moves," she said.

She told reporters that Mindanao has suffered enough as its investment and tourism climate were affected during the government campaign against the MILF early last year.

Asked if Macapagal thought that Malacañang decision to send the troops back to the South was in order to serve as a diversion to the impeachment trial of President Estrada, she said: "You said it."

In a short speech, Macapagal said the new year would be a year of "sacrifice" and "of courage for the Filipino people."

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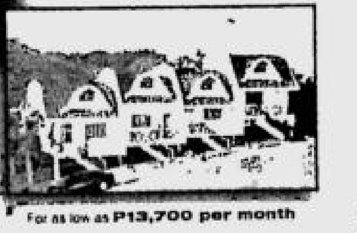

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Solon apologizes profusely for slapping incident

By Volt Contreras

SAN Juan Rep. Jose Mari Gonzalez desperately pleaded for forgiveness while his wife Charito went around kissing and shaking hands with members of the House ethics committee as the panel yesterday resumed its inquiry into the celebrated Nov. 13 slapping incident at session hall.

The couple rose from their seats during a break in the morning hearing to reiterate their apologies, especially to House sergeant at arms Bayani Fabic, whom Gonzalez hit in the face for failing to control the gallery during the historic session that greenlighted President Estrada's Senate impeachment trial.

Gonzalez gave Fabic a bear hug. In an interview later, the congressman said he whispered to Fabic "if you can still find it in your heart to forgive me."

Gonzalez said that because of the incident, his wife "did not talk to me for two weeks" and that "my mother was pissed off by what I did, for it defamed the name of my father."

The ethics committee chaired by Rep. Alipio Badelles (LAMP, Lanao del Norte) will again meet behind closed doors today to draft its recommendations, which will then be submitted to a plenary vote.

Gonzalez faces three possible penalties: outright expulsion from the House, suspension for not more 60 days, or a mere reprimand. The first two penalties require the vote of the two-thirds of the House membership to be enacted.

But in an interview, Fabic, a retired Army general, said he would still file a civil case against the congressman "regardless" of the outcome of the investigation.

The first half of the yesterday's hearing was open to the public. It was here where Gonzalez repeated his apologies to Fabic, the general's family, and to his House peers.

"He was man enough to humble himself," Badelles remarked after the hearing.

And to further dramatize Gonzalez's sincerity, his wife Charito rose to shake hands with the nine-committee members present, even giving some of them a kiss, he added.

The second half of the hearing was then held behind closed doors. Badelles said the panel had actually "arrived at a decision" already, but he refused to divulge it pending today's hearing.

Namfrel may lose accreditation

By Gerald Lacuarta

THE NATIONAL Movement for Free Elections may lose its traditional role as the citizens' arm of the Commission on Elections in the May 14 elections, according to its chair, former trade secretary Jose Concepcion.

Concepcion, in a letter to Comelec Chair Harriet Demetriou, complained that Namfrel's accreditation papers had been gathering dust at the office of Comelec Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco, awaiting her signature.

"It was unfortunate that Commissioner Tancangco did not immediately act on our accreditation or pass it on to the other commissioners without signing the same," Concepcion said. He said Namfrel's application for accreditation was filed on Oct. 25, 2000.

Concepcion also disclosed that an attempt was made to have Comelec throw out Namfrel's application for accreditation through a proposal raised in the poll body's en banc meeting on Jan. 4.

Namfrel has been the country's election watchdog in 17 electoral exercises beginning with the 1984 Batasang Pambansa elections.

As Comelec's citizens' arm, it has conducted "quick count" operations in 13 elections since 1984, including the historic 1986 snap polls.

Concepcion noted that the Comelec, in a formal hearing on Nov. 14 last year, had approved "in principle" Namfrel's application for accreditation.

Namfrel's application was being taken up in an en banc meeting at press time yesterday. But Tancangco, who had objected to the accreditation of Namfrel, was not in the meeting. She did not report for work yesterday due to illness.

The Comelec's decision regarding Namfrel's application is expected to be announced by Demetriou in a media briefing this morning.

Republic Act 8173 authorizes the accredited citizens' arm to conduct an unofficial count and get the 6th copy of the election returns under the manual system.

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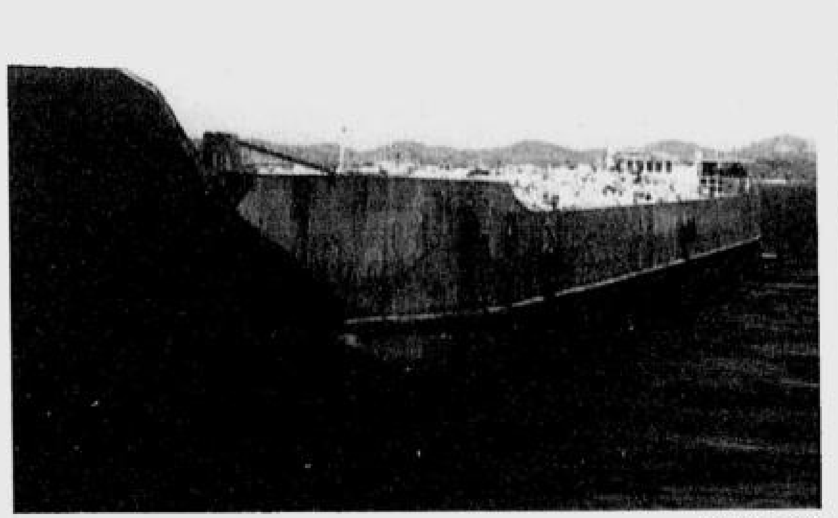
Semirara dump deal raises stink



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NOT in our backyard, Semirara residents are saying to Metro Manila authorities who plan to dump garbage in their island paradise.

(From page A1)

Aventajado was in Davao attending the meeting for the Mal-mar irrigation project yesterday, and could not be reached for comment.

His undersecretary, Manuel Gaite, said it was "very unfair" for Legarda to accuse the committee of suspicious haste because the selection of the contract awardees took more than a month.

"It was not a decision taken out of the blue," Gaite said.

He said there was just some degree of urgency because the government was intent on finding an alternative garbage dump, even on an interim basis, because of the closure of the San Mateo landfill.

Semirara is an isolated island with a land area of 5,500 hectares and a population of about 8,000.

It is part of the cluster of islands that includes the Caluya group, the Cagayancillo and Cuyo Islands, and the famed Tubbataha Reef Marine Park, a World Heritage site that makes up one of the country's richest fishing grounds.

It is about 15 nautical miles from the famed Boracay Island of Aklan.

Senate Majority Leader Francisco Tatad referred Legarda's speech and the resolution filed by Sen. Robert Jaworski to the Senate blue ribbon and environment committees.

In his resolution, Jaworski said the government could not allow the dumping of garbage on Semirara as this would constitute a "blatant violation" of environment laws.

Joint venture

DMCI, a construction firm and the flagship company of listed DMCI Holdings Inc., has formed a 50-50 joint venture with real estate developer R-II Builders Inc. to undertake the two-year Interim Integrated Waste Management Project of the Metro Manila Development Authority.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, DMCI Holdings spokersperson Alona Quiambao said that with the MMDA's "minimum guarantee" of 2,000 tons of solid waste daily from Jan. 1, 2001, to Dec. 31, 2002, and a "tipping fee" of P950 per ton, the total contract amount for the project had been "initially placed" at P1.39 billion.

The original plan was for barges to transport the garbage to Semirara to fill up the 28-hectare Panian Pit in the northern part of the island, site of the Semirara Coal Corp. (SCC).

The SCC is the biggest employer on the island. It is owned by DMCI Holdings, which plans to delist it from the stock exchange and eventually dispose of it as part of overall corporate restructuring.

Three barges loaded with garbage are now anchored 100 meters off the SCC-operated Dapdap pier.

The Coast Guard has prevented the unloading of the garbage because of the 20-day temporary restraining order issued by the Antique Regional Trial Court.

The TRO was sought by Jancom, the firm that lost in the bidding for the permanent project.

Angry residents are conducting daily pickets in front of the pier and at the entrance of the SCC, and demanding that the barges return to Manila.

Semirara has a coal deposit of about 80 million metric tons in two sites not yet mined by the SCC.

In 1987, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources declared it a bird and turtle sanctuary. Seaweed farming is also a booming industry on the island.

Misused certificates

Legarda said Antique Gov. Exequiel Javier told her in a letter that Malacañang and the project proponents had apparently misused certificates of willingness by the mayor of Caluya and the barangay captain of Semirara to consider setting up the landfill project.

She said the certificates were being misused for another project, the interim garbage facility, after the original plan to put up the landfill was blocked by the TRO.

Legarda said Aventajado and the proponents apparently thought that since the garbage facility would be in use for only two years, the environmental requirements would not be strictly applied.

"The presumption was entirely wrong, and the Antiqueños and the whole of Panay vehemently oppose this project," she said.

Legarda pointed out that the DENR had yet to issue a permit for the project.

Meanwhile, she said, Antiqueños were agitated over reports that the garbage-laden barges were polluting the waters of Semirara and endangering not only marine and coastal life but also human life.

Sen. John Osmeña has asked the Senate blue ribbon committee to look into the matter.

He said the MMDA's garbage management program, worth P5 billion in all, was awarded to DMCI without public bidding.

Osmeña said he preferred the reopening of the San Mateo landfill instead of the use of Semirara as site of the garbage project because of serious environmental implications.

R-II Builders led by businessman Reghis Romero II was the developer of the Smokey Mountain Development and Reclamation Project, which transformed the area from a garbage dump into a community of nine medium-rise housing buildings.

Done deal

In Semirara, Rani Rodriguez, convenor of the United Antiqueños, said the President had ordered the DENR to "expeditiously process" the environmental compliance certificate for the project.

"This is a done deal as far as Malacañang is concerned, and only a change in leadership can stop this project," he told the INQUIRER.

Rodriguez cited Environment Secretary Antonio Cerilles' Jan. 3 letter informing the project proponents that the DENR had already approved the environmental management plan (EMP) for the project.

He furnished the INQUIRER a photocopy of the letter that was addressed to R-II Builders president Leopoldo Sanchez and DMCI Holdings president Isidro Consunji.

In the letter, Cerilles said the EMP was approved "in view of the critical need for a new sanitary landfill to avert a garbage crisis."

He told the proponents that they could proceed with the implementation of the project, subject to six conditions.

The protests have mounted with students of the University of the Philippines-Visayas joining the fight against the dumping of Metro Manila's trash.

Student leaders of other schools in Iloilo City are mapping out ways to voice their opposition to the Semirara landfill, said Jeffrey Celiz, chair of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan in Panay.

Manny Mamon, spokesperson of the Madiaas Ecological Movement, said members in Capiz and Antique were being mobilized to join protest actions.

Leaders of militant groups also made the rounds of various radio stations in Iloilo to express opposition to the project.

The Sagip Semirara, Sagip Boracay, a coalition of residents, establishment owners and tourists in Boracay, is holding a protest caravan today from Caticlan, Aklan, to San Jose, Antique—a distance of 370 kilometers. ***With a report from Hazel P. Villa and Nereo C. Lujan, PDI Visayas Bureau; and Donna S. Cueto in Manila***

Binay denies garbage problem 'critical'

BY AGNES E. DONATO

METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority Chair Jejomar Binay yesterday denied that the garbage problem had yet to reach a critical level, but conceded that "we are gearing toward that direction."

Binay pointed out that the backlog in garbage collection during the holidays was getting aggravated every day, resulting in more piles of trash on the streets.

But he disowned responsibility for the uncollected garbage, saying it was the local governments that should be held to account for it.

"The MMDA has nothing to do with garbage collection. Our only concern is to find a dumping area," he declared.

Binay assailed certain politicians who, he said, had been concerned only with their political plans and not the problem plaguing Metro Manila.

"We have yet to see a politician rise and tell his constituents, 'Garbage is not that bad. Metro Manila residents are our fellow Filipinos whom we have to help,'" he said.

He added that most politicians now seemed to feel that "if they agreed to have their area used as a dump, they would lose in the elections."

Binay also appealed to the officials and residents of Antique—who have strongly opposed the use of Semirara Island as dump for Metro Manila's garbage—to "give us a chance."

"We are not idiots. We also have a responsibility to the environment," he said, adding that the Semirara landfill would be closely monitored once it is opened.

To the Boracay Foundation, Binay had this to say: "The more (you) tell the world that tourism (in your site) would be affected, the more (you) alienate your clients."

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'Ejercito' lady grouses about 'jueteng' payoff

(From page A1)

complained to Southern Police District chief Senior Supt. Manuel Cabigon, about her police "protectors" in Muntinlupa who demand "too much grease money," but also "have the guts to collect from other jueteng operators (in Muntinlupa)."

An opposition congressman, Quezon City Rep. Mike Defensor, yesterday produced Ejercito's letter indicating that Ejercito is a confessed jueteng operator.

Portions of the letter read:

"Sir, I am operating a 'jueteng' game in Muntinlupa City. I would like to assure you sir, that said gambling operation was made possible not because of my being 'Ejercito,' but because of the 'dole-outs/grease money' that I have given."

"For a long time, I tried my best to cope-up (sic) with the demand of my protectors. But as you can see, the daily take is too small compared to the grease money that I compelled to give."

In her letter, Ejercito also said a jueteng operator in Muntinlupa "has to give" about P122,100 "per week" to either the chief of police or the mayor.

Defensor distributed copies of the May 24, 2000 letter purportedly signed by Gerra Ejercito.

Defensor said Ejercito was known among jueteng lords—including whistleblower Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis Singson—to be a daughter of the President's older brother-lawyer Paulino Ejercito.

Name dropper

In a phone interview, a secretary of lawyer Paulino Ejercito maintained that this Gerra Ejercito was a "name dropper" who "has no relation" with the President's family.

Jobet Fortuno said his boss was "contemplating a libel suit against Defensor."

But Defensor countered that Singson could attest to the fact that Gerra Ejercito is Mr. Estrada's niece.

Gerra Ejercito made several references to her relation to President Estrada but maintained she had never taken advantage of this in her jueteng operation, which she defended for being "a good source of livelihood for our *masa*."

The letter writer said her so-called protectors "accuse me of using the name of the President in my operation . . . Why is the hell (sic) do I have to give grease money if I can use the name of the President if this is truth? (sic)."

Copies to Lacson, Aglipay

In June last year, Gerra Ejercito's name cropped up in an INQUIRER report on the PNP's renewed crackdown on jueteng operators.

Back then, she was already described as a "big-time female jueteng financier" known for dropping the names of high Malacañang officials.

"Governor Singson knows her to be the niece of the President. I spoke with him recently and he even confirmed meeting this Gerra and another gambling lord in late 1999 about possibly setting up jueteng operations in Pangasinan," Defensor told the INQUIRER.

But the original plan did not materialize and Gerra Ejercito ended up operating jueteng in Muntinlupa instead, the congressman added.

The letter indicated that copies had also been sent to Philippine National Police chief Director General Panfilo Lacson and National Capital Region Police Office chief Edgardo Aglipay.

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Evidence against Erap overwhelming–CBCP

By Norman Bordadora

THE CATHOLIC Bishops Conference of the Philippines declared yesterday it believed that the evidence presented against President Estrada in the impeachment court was more than enough to prove that he no longer had the moral ascendancy to govern.

CBCP president Archbishop Orlando Quevedo said the evidence was in fact so overwhelming that an acquittal would not in any way solve the moral issues confronting the presidency.

He said that while the President's lawyers could question the evidence's relevance and materiality to the impeachment case, the same evidence undoubtedly had relevance and materiality to the matter of moral integrity of Mr. Estrada.

"As a layperson regarding the interpretation of legal evidence, I would not know if legally speaking the evidence is enough. But from a layperson's point of view, the evidence is overwhelming," Quevedo told the Inquirer in a faxed response from the Archdiocese of Cotabato.

"My point of view regarding the President's moral authority to govern does not really depend on the political process of impeachment. I have always insisted on the moral grounds of the bishops' positions," Quevedo said.

"And I have also said that if the President is somehow acquitted, this will not resolve the moral issues involved," he added.

Also yesterday, Rep. Feliciano Belmonte, head of the prosecution panel, said President Estrada must testify to answer growing evidence against him.

"For us, we think he must testify. Too much evidence has come out that has reached him," he said.

He cited the testimony of Equitable-PCI Bank senior vice president Clarissa Ocampo that she had personally seen Mr. Estrada sign a fake name of "Jose Velarde" to a P500-million trust account.

"She looked as he was signing. Who can you call to disprove that?" said Belmonte.

However he conceded that getting Mr. Estrada to testify was "a matter of the defense," hinting that they were likely to block any attempt to call the President to the witness stand.

With a report from the AFP

Militants hit protest ban

By Phillip C. Tubeza
and Alcuin Papa

MILITANT groups yesterday denounced a threat to ban protests outside the Senate as police officials blamed the protesters for the violence in which a Senate bus driver was hurt after a scuffle with protesters at last Monday's protest rally.

The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan said Senate President Aquilino Pimentel and Chief Justice Hilario Davide had allegedly prejudged the protesters when the two threatened to ban protests.

Bayan chair Rafael Mariano told a press conference yesterday that the two officials had called for a stop to protests after Monday's incident without hearing the side of the anti-Estrada protestors.

He said Bayan and other militant groups would continue protesting in front of the Senate on Jan. 15 and 22 even if the impeachment tribunal ordered them to stop.

Mariano castigated Pimentel for "resorting to strong-arm and fascistic tactics by threatening to ban rallies even without an investigation."

Bayan secretary general Teddy Casiño said the incident was an "isolated case" but might "be used as a pretext to ban rallies."

He pointed out that such a ban would come at a critical juncture since the impeachment court would be reaching a decision in the next three to four weeks.

"That's the important time. Without the rallies the prosecution and the witnesses would lose steam. It would serve Erap's interests to ban the rallies," Casino charged.

He said he noted a pattern in which anti-Estrada rallies were being curtailed, like the breaking up of the Jericho March, the alleged bias of police officials in favor of pro-Estrada ralliers, and the banning of three spectators by Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago.

The pro-Estrada People's Movement Against Poverty yesterday demanded that the members of the "left-leaning anti-Erap opposition" who allegedly mauled the Senate driver be punished.

PMAP spokesperson Ronald Lumbao said the protesters "must be taught a lesson" but he said the Senate should not use the mauling incident to ban rallies altogether.

Pimentel earlier said that restrictions might be put in place against protestors after Senate driver Mohamed Adam, 39, was punched and pelted with bottles when he tried to drive his bus through the crowd of protesters. *With reports from Agnes E. Donato and Cynthia D. Balana*

Miriam makes about-face on spectators

By Martin P. Marfil

SEN. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, in another about-face, yesterday insisted that the ban that she had asked to be imposed against three spectators in the impeachment trial, and then sought to withdraw, should again stay.

Santiago withdrew a motion that she had filed to reconsider the ban, explaining that in denying that they stood up during the Jan. 4 hearing, the three had in effect called her a liar.

"It is anomalous. It is unheard of that a person who is not even party to a case can go so far to accuse a judge in that same case of lying. When they say that they're not guilty, what they're saying in effect is (that) I misled my colleagues in my factual narration," she said in open court.

At the same time, Santiago warned two unnamed congressmen against lawyering for the three saying that the Constitution prohibits them from acting as counsels, adding that she would resist any attempt to have the ban reconsidered.

This developed after Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. at the start of the hearing yesterday read into the impeachment court records several statements of support for Bettina Aboitiz and Rossana Tuason-Fores.

Aboitiz, Fores and anti-crime advocate Dante Jimenez—one of the complainants in the impeachment trial—were the three whom the senator-judges had ordered banned from the hearings at the urging of Santiago last Friday

"The communications to the court that has just been read for the record…mentioned me by name and I am compelled to rise as a reaction…"Santiago said after the reading of the documents.

"I hereby respectfully withdraw my own motion for reconsideration and would like…to insist that the status quo should be preserved, that the previous decision of the impeachment court must be underlined and observed—forever excluding from these premises those three persons," she added.

A furious Santiago had accused the three of standing up and looking at her "in a provocative way" at the hearings on Jan. 4 and demanded that they be expelled and cited for contempt. The senator-judges, after a closed-door meeting, ordered the three escorted out and banned from ever attending the hearings.

Fores and Aboitiz had filed a motion for reconsideration last Monday, denying that they had stood up to look at Sen. Raul Roco while he was directing questions at a witness.

Yesterday, Santiago cited several reasons for the withdrawal of her motion for reconsideration.

Among them was that a motion for reconsideration was not allowed from a judgment of direct contempt and that the remedy is to file a petition for certiorari in a superior court.

She explained in a statement that she had filed the motion in the "spirit of reconciliation" but was met with "animosity and (an) adversarial attitude."

"But this spirit of reconciliation was not reciprocated by the parties involved. In fact, the following weekend the entire opposition media went on a feeding frenzy against me personally notwithstanding that that decision was not my decision but the decision of the Senate as an impeachment court," she said.

She even cited reports that "the male (referring to Jimenez)" even went on television and said that he does not owe any apology to the impeachment court and that on the contrary, Santiago owes him an apology."

"The height of the arrogance of such a statement can be matched only by the profundity of the ignorance of the legal system which is belied," Santiago said.

She said the last ground for withdrawing her motion was based on the denial of the three that they did not stand up during the hearing and because of this, they in effect were accusing her of lying.

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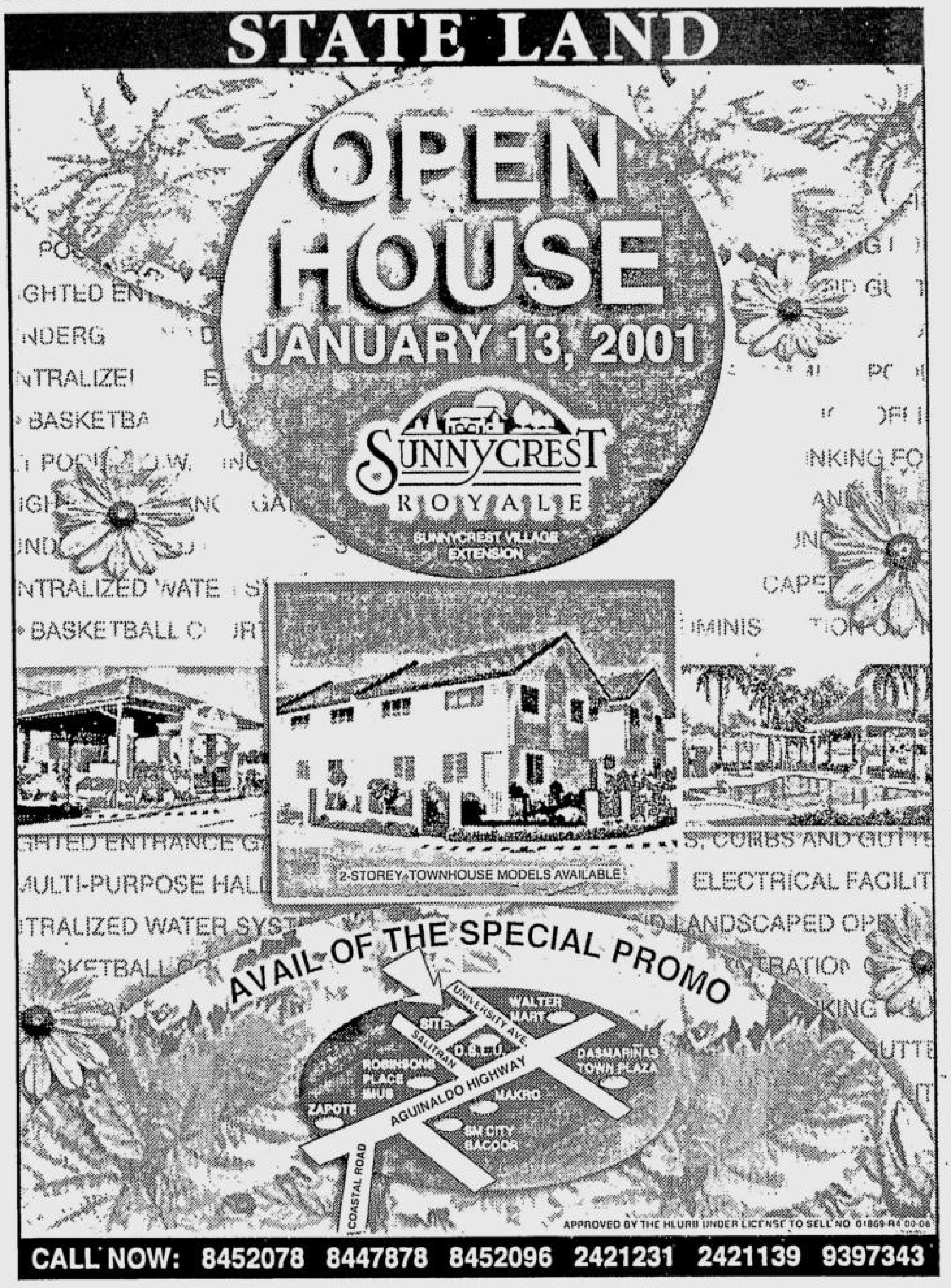

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Almadro: Erap said Dante Tan had bribed Yasay and did nothing

(From page A1)

investigation by his agency.

The PSE and the SEC conducted parallel investigations of Tan's manipulation of the stocks of BW Resources, a gaming firm where Tan is the majority stockholder.

Almadro said his group was able to establish that Tan "and his associates" engaged in questionable trading practices like "wash sale" and "kiting" to push the price of BW shares up.

Almadro named businessman Lucio Co as one of Tan's accomplices.

Valentine's

Almadro said he was in Malacañang on Feb. 14, 2000 along with Yulo to personally inform the President about his team's findings on Tan's trading firm.

Almadro said a copy of his team's main report was presented to Mr. Estrada, the contents of which he tried to explain to the President in Filipino.

Almadro added that the President was candid enough to admit that he did not understand the contents of the PSE report.

"Mr. Yulo then started (to explain again) the results to the President. He began by saying 'just look at the summary and the conclusions on page 56' and later added, 'you know, Mr. President, *garapal ho ang ginawa nila dito kaya hindi dapat palagpasin*, (This is too brazen and it should not go unpunished)"' Almadro said in Taglish.

Almadro recalled that after leafing through the findings, the President told them that Tan even complained to him about being the victim when the value of BW shares started to collapse.

"Dante told me he is actually the victim here, that he did not manipulate the value of the shares. The truth is that he even lost a lot of money after the value of BW shares spiraled," Almadro quoted the President as telling them in Filipino.

Almadro said Yulo again tried to explain that Tan was actually "the party responsible for price manipulation and that as early as June 1999 he reaped a profit of P800 million more or less. The President did not react to this."

Almadro said the exchange between Yulo and the President lasted between five and 10 minutes. At one point, they even digressed, shifting the discussion to Mr. Estrada's impending trip to the United States four months from then.

Almadro also recalled that Yulo said they decided to come to Malacañang to report personally on his team's findings "so that the President would not be surprised about it."

Not man enough

Almadro said that while they were with the President, he suddenly slumped on his chair and out of the blue said, "*Alam mo yang si Yasay, napakawalanghiya niyan. Hindi lalaking kausap.*"

The former CSG chief said Mr. Estrada claimed that Yasay had promised him and then Executive Secretary Ronaldo Zamora that he was supposed to resign in December 1999.

"He said he would resign in December. But he went to the US. When he came back, he was accompanied to the Palace by (Jovito) Salonga and (Sedfrey) Ordoñez and he told me that he was no longer resigning," Almadro quoted the President as saying.

"We did not reply to that statement, after that I was taken aback by what the President did. He suddenly sat up straight and said *'At saka sabi sa akin ni* Dante, *'yang si* Yasay, *inayos na niya 'yan* (Tan told me that he had bribed Yasay),"' Almadro said while forming a circle with his thumb and forefinger.

Earlier in his testimony, Almadro said he and Yulo met with Yasay on Nov. 26, 1999 at the height of the BW scandal at the Ciudad Fernandina Restaurant in Greenhills, San Juan.

Yasay, he said, was complaining that Malacañang was pressuring him to clear Tan.

Yasay even complained about "not having a choice" but to clear Tan, apparently due to the pressure from the Palace.

However, it was Yulo, who assured Yasay, that he still had a choice of "telling the truth."

Meeting with Yasay and Tan

Almadro said Yasay looked visibly relieved when he heard this from Yulo. Almadro added that Yasay had revealed he previously arranged a meeting with Tan and called the businessman to tell him to proceed to the restaurant.

Almadro said he was surprised to hear a knock on the door of the function room where they were not long after Yasay contacted Tan. It was Tan.

Almadro said Tan also tried to convince him and Yulo that he was merely a victim of circumstances and that he was not a price manipulator.

WITNESS Ruben Almadro, former head of the compliance and surveillance group of the Philippine Stock Exchange, describes a Valentine's Day meeting with President Estrada last year. JESS YUSON

Almadro said Tan even asked for their help to revive his firm.

"I did not say anything," Almadro said in his testimony.

Private prosecutor Hernando Perez, a former congressman, showed acetate slides on a projector to illustrate the sudden increase in the value of the price of BW shares.

It showed that while a share was priced at P3.95 as of May 1999, its value rose to P107 on Oct. 11, 1999 before closing at P97.

The "tremendous" increase in the stock's price came following reports in September 1999 that Macau-based gambling magnate Stanley Ho was to invest in BW shares, according to Almadro.

But prices plunged one month after amid reports that BW Resources had engaged in questionable practices to prop up its shares.

Deposits of Erap, Loi, Guia, Laarni, Joy in bank bared

(From page A1)

panel repeatedly refused to stipulate.

This prevented Moreno from asking Lim to confirm the existence of the accounts.

"If the witness is asked whether President Estrada or Mrs. Luisa P. Estrada, Laarni Enriquez, Joy Melendrez, Guia Gomez, Jose Velarde or Kelvin Garcia has other accounts with Citibank . . . the witness would answer yes," Moreno said.

Defense lawyer Sigfrid Fortun asked that Moreno's statement be stricken off the records but Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., presiding officer of the trial, said Moreno merely made a proffer of evidence.

"What he announced is not evidence," Davide said.

Kelvin Garcia

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. asked Lim if Citibank had a Kelvin Garcia as a client.

"Well, ah, I haven't checked but definitely in Citibank we don't open fictitious accounts," Lim remarked.

Pimentel snapped. "Who told you it was fictitious?" he asked.

Lim said that "there was a rumor in the banking community." When Pimentel again asked him if Citibank had a Kelvin Garcia as a client, Lim said he would check.

During the break, Moreno told reporters that the prosecution wanted the witness to discuss the numerous bank accounts of the President and his women.

"We wanted to force the issue and to direct the witness to testify on the bank accounts of the First Lady, Erap, Guia, Laarni, Joy, Velarde and Garcia so that the public would know the culture of corruption that envelops our country," Moreno told reporters.

Accounts may already be empty

Prosecutor Joker Arroyo warned that bank accounts, which have yet to be divulged, "may right now be emptied of money."

"In fact the Equitable Jose Velarde account was closed last Nov. 17. To remove Erap, we have to show that he is very rich," Arroyo told reporters.

Moreno was unable to elicit details about the First Lady's Account No. 166820 in Citibank Greenhills due to persistent objections by defense lawyer Jose Flaminiano.

Flaminiano said Moreno was asking about what both panels had already stipulated on and thus wasting time. Davide upheld Flaminiano most of the time.

After a 20-minute break, Moreno announced that the prosecution panel met and agreed to propose a number of issues for stipulation "to expedite the process."

It was then that he gave the information about the numerous bank accounts but Fortun refused to stipulate on all eight counts.

When asked by Senator-Judge Franklin Drilon, Lim said that when the checks totaling P8.4 million were deposited in the First Lady's account, the bank managers tried to contact her for an explanation.

"Yes, Your Honor, it triggered us to ask . . . The account officer made an attempt to ask the account holder but she was not available," said Lim, who supervises all Citibank retail branches.

Lim said the bank officials were able to talk to Lucena "Baby" Ortaliza, the First Lady's authorized representative.

"It was just left for me to deposit," Ortaliza reportedly said.

Money laundering

Lim told Senator-Judge Renato Cayetano that Citibank had a threshold scheme for its depositors.

"It's a way to detect and deter money-laundering," Lim said.

Cayetano said Citibank, being an American bank, is bound by the Racketeer-Influenced and Corrupt Organization (Rico) law.

Lim told Drilon that a threshold depended on the capacity of a depositor and was determined by getting the regular monthly deposits for, say, a period of two years. Thus, a depositor who has a P2-million deposit level for the past two years is assigned a P2-million threshold.

"Anything that exceeds a single big deposit of that threshold triggers an alarm . . . that we have to try to contact the customer just to verify the transaction deposit," Lim said.

Lim told Senator-Judge Rodolfo Biazon the question asked of the First Lady or her representative was, "why do you have suddenly this P8-million deposit?"

Lim testified that the First Lady's account had a balance of a little more than P3 million before the two checks totaling P8.4 million issued by Singson were deposited.

Bank secrecy law

Lim repeatedly invoked the Bank Secrecy Law when Senator-Judge Loren Legarda-Leviste asked for the total amount of the First Lady's portfolio, the financial services she was entitled to, and the classification of her account.

Lim apologized that he could not disclose confidential bank information and that he did not want to incriminate himself.

But he confirmed Leviste's query that a Citibank Gold account had a minimum balance of $100,000 while a Citibank Private Banking Client account had at least P2 million.

Lim refused to say whether the First Lady's account fell under these two categories.

Lim said that in his 16 years with Citibank he had stumbled upon money laundering schemes and that he had closed accounts linked to the laundering.

Drilon asked him for an example of a money laundering operation.

"For example, there's this client who walks in and introduces he has a business. Then suddenly you realize that over a period of three or four months, there is a lot of cash deposits, a lot of wire transfers right away to various spots like the British Virgin Islands," he said.

In such cases, Citibank tells the clients that it does not want to do business with them, according to Lim.

Jaworski

Senator-Judge Robert Jaworski could not believe Citibank would turn away sources of income for the bank.

"Sometimes, prudence is more important in the banking system than earnings," Lim said, prompting Jaworski to ask if there is still hope in the banking industry.

"I think there is, especially now, that there are new circulars . . . and other anti-money laundering bills that are being passed," Lim said.

He said the banking community was "just watching" the trial and that "in any proceedings, there's always anxiety."

Also yesterday, the prosecution team asked the impeachment court to summon Enriquez to testify on two charges included in the Articles of Impeachment.

In the request for a subpoena submitted yesterday, the House prosecutors asked that Enriquez be asked to take the witness stand on Jan. 17 to answer questions on allegations that Mr. Estrada betrayed public trust and violated the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Law.

The prosecution team also asked that George L. Go, former Equitable PCI Bank chair, be summoned starting Jan. 15 to testify on allegations that Mr. Estrada accumulated unex-plained wealth. *With a report from Martin P. Marfil*

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SKY COMPUTER RAIDED

SKY COMPUTER located at 1428 Dasmariñas Street, Tondo, Manila was raided by NBI operatives last December 7, 2000.

SKY COMPUTER is an alleged dealer of fake Mongol pencils. Criminal and administrative charges will be filed against the owner, Grace C. So, before the Department of Justice for violating the Intellectual Property Code (Sec. 155/Sec. 170 of R.A. No. 8293).

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LITTLE PRESIDENT

Angara starts shakeup

By Donna Cueto
Armand Nocum
and Christine Avendaño

NEWLY appointed Executive Secretary Edgardo Angara has started the restructuring of the Palace staff, with Senior Deputy Executive Secretary Ramon Cardenas and presidential legislative liaison officer Jimmy Policarpio becoming the first casualties.

Angara named Luis Liwanag, a career official who had been "frozen" by former executive secretary Ronaldo Zamora, as over-all senior deputy executive secretary.

Liwanag in effect replaced Cardenas, the concurrent presidential executive assistant whom Angara now has given the task of taking charge of the personal needs of President Estrada, his family and other ceremonial functions of the President.

Angara also downgraded Policarpio's power, as he placed former congressman Ramon "Dondon" Bagatsing Jr. as a deputy executive secretary in charge of public affairs, which in the new setup covers both congressional and local government relations.

Bagatsing replaced Vicente de la Serna, who resigned as deputy executive secretary.

Angara, however, pointed out that Bagatsing's powers would be wider than those previously held by De la Serna, since the latter was just confined to local government relations.

Angara, moreover, vowed to reduce the number of Cabinet-rank secretaries and agencies and commissions at the Office of the President, which he claimed had become too unmanageable.

"Doesn't it strike you as odd that there are many secretaries within the Office of the Executive Secretary?" he asked.

"Apart from the proliferation of secretaries with Cabinet rank in the Office of the President, there is also a great proliferation of commissions and agencies under the OP. It's just unthinkable that the President or his staff can supervise something which in management can be described as already beyond the span of control," he said.

There are over a hundred agencies under the Office of the President.

Angara said he had yet to talk with either Cardenas or Policarpio about the changes at the Palace.

"I don't know whether we need their consent," he said. "I just intend to do what the President asked me to do and later on, if there is some ripple among those who are affected, then I'll sit down and talk to them."

Angara also asked critics to give him a break, lamenting that while he was in his new post only a few days, he had already gotten numerous criticisms.

"They should wait for what happens or what we are going to do to strengthen the office of the Executive Secretary," he said.

However, Vice President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo declared yesterday that Angara's assumption of his new post was not an issue.

"That's not the issue, the issue is the President himself," Macapagal said. "He had a very good Cabinet all this time."

But Bohol Rep. Ernesto Herrera said that Malacañang hoped that the appointment of Angara "would deodorize the present administration."

He elaborated, "There is that illusion that Angara can smoothen the rough edges of this administration but it is already too late.

12 AFP officers promoted

TWELVE ranking officials of the Armed Forces of the Philippines were promoted by President Estrada yesterday upon the recommendation of Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado and the AFP Board of Generals.

One of those who earned another star was Maj. Gen. Jaime delos Santos, who rose from two-star to three-star rank as lieutenant general.

Last year, Delos Santos was appointed Commander of the United Nations Transitional Authority in East Timor, besting Lt. Gen. Diomedio Villanueva and Gregorio Camiling.

Since the UN appointment required a three-star rank, Delos Santos was temporarily promoted to major general but reverted back to a two-star rank upon his return to the country.

Delos Santos was later appointed as Deputy Chief of Staff.

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2 leftist leaders hurt in car crash

By Jerome Aning

TWO officials of the newly formed Bayan Muna political party cheated death when their car was rammed by a cargo truck and dragged for several meters in Sampaloc, Manila, Monday night.

Bayan Muna president Satur Ocampo, 61, and Nathanael Santiago, secretary general, miraculously survived the accident. Ocampo suffered cuts on the left hand while Santiago escaped unscathed.

Police said the accident occurred at around 10:30 p.m. on Monday, while the two were on their way home to Quezon City on board a red Toyota Corolla (UBF 865).

Ocampo, a former spokesperson of the communist-led National Democratic Front, said he and Santiago had just come from a protest rally at the Senate demanding the conviction of President Estrada.

While Ocampo and Santiago were quoted by the party as hoping that what happened was only an accident and "nothing political was involved," the party's vice chair Crispin Beltran said he suspected foul play.

"It is easy to dismiss this case as a plain accident under normal conditions but not on a situation characterized by economic chaos and political strife," he said.

"This may be part of the general game plan to weaken and harass groups and personalities identified with the Left and not active in the anti-Estrada opposition," Beltran added.

The car was traveling on the north-bound lane of España Blvd. near the corner of Kundiman Street when an 18-wheeler truck driven by Reynaldo de Jesus, 46, of Cabaybay, Carmona, Cavite, bumped into the car's left rear and dragged it for about 10 meters.

The impact shattered the car's glass windows and windshield. Nearby residents and bystanders surrounded the car and helped the two passengers to get out.

"After the initial shock, Nat and I could only stare at each other for we were quite stunned," Ocampo, who was driving the car, told the INQUIRER in a phone interview. "It's a good thing we had our seatbelts on or we would have been thrown out."

Ocampo was given first-aid treatment by a Metropolitan Manila Development Authority medic who happened to be in the area.

De Jesus later claimed that he failed to notice the car in front of his truck. He said he tried to avoid hitting it but found it was too late to apply the brakes.

Ocampo said he and the others looked for the truck and found the engine still running but De Jesus was gone.

"I was curious because he reappeared after almost an hour and told us he called the police but no policeman arrived," Ocampo added. He said the barangay chair in the area, Felicia Cao, offered assistance and called traffic authorities.

Ocampo said Cao had told him the traffic police took long to respond to the accident because the duty officer was busy.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, January 10, 2001
1st Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:	**Heb 2:14-18**
Gospel:	**Mk 1:29-39**

As soon as Jesus and his disciples left the synagogue, Jesus went to the home of Simon and Andrew with James and John. As Simon's mother-in-law was sick in bed with fever, they immediately told him about her. Jesus went to her and taking her by the hand, raised her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them. That evening at sundown, people brought to Jesus all the sick and those who had evil spirits: the whole town was pressing around the door. Jesus healed many who had various diseases, and drove out many demons; but he did not let them speak, for they knew who he was.

Very early in the morning, before daylight, Jesus went off to a lonely place where he prayed. Simon and the others went out, too, searching for him; and when they found him they said, "Everyone is looking for you." Then Jesus answered, "Let's go to the nearby villages so that I may preach there too; for that is why I came."

So Jesus set out to preach in all the synagogues throughout Galilee; he also cast out demons.

Commentary:

When the scourge of popularity sets in, celebrities often begin to spread themselves thinly, lose their focus and inevitably find themselves downhill. The addiction to cheap applause often makes them forget about the discipline of their trade, they become like shooting stars that disappear just as quickly as they appeared. Today's Gospel tells us in very simple terms what kept Jesus from developing a celebrity complex or a superstar syndrome, in spite of the massive popularity that he gained from his teaching and healing. Prayer. Prayer kept his feet firmly on the ground. It was his way of going back constantly to his purpose, to his mission in life.

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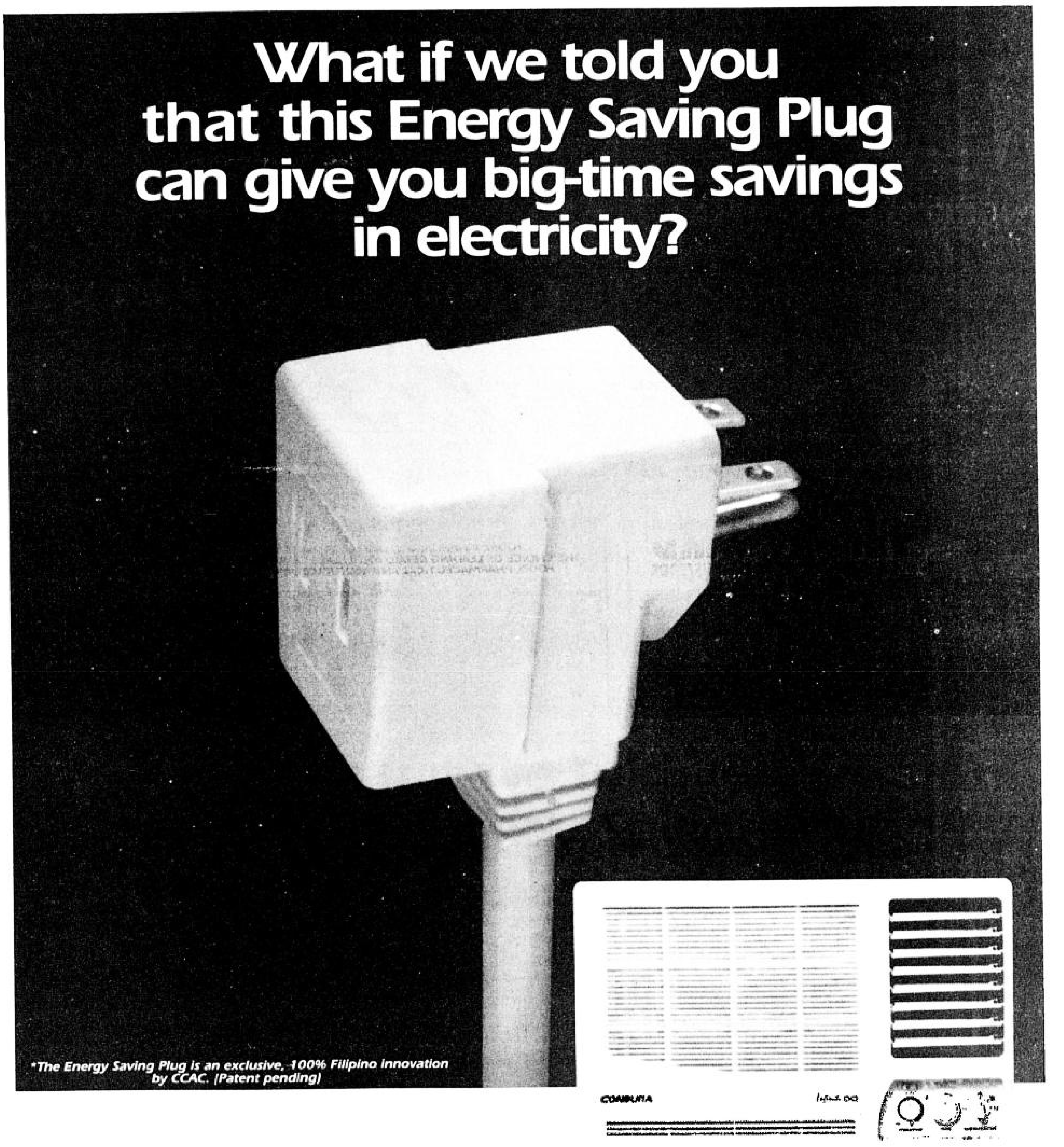

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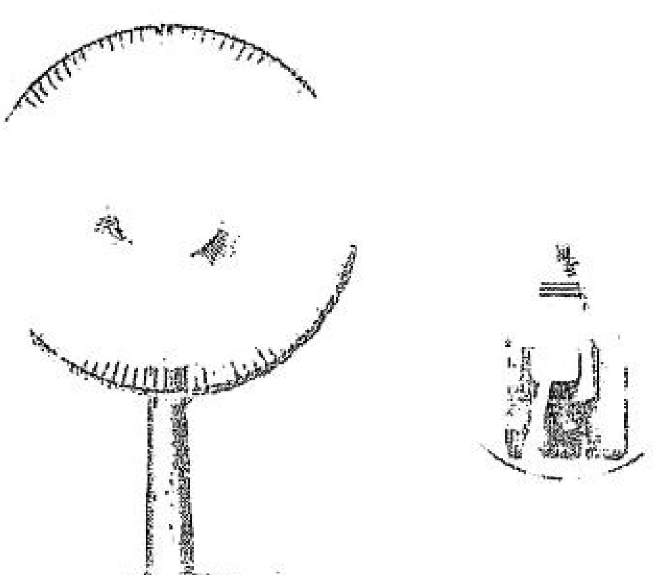

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Pattern of deceit

EDITORIAL

DEFENSE lawyers in the impeachment trial of President Estrada tried to blow a hole in the testimony of an important prosecution witness Monday, only to see the bomb explode in their faces. Now there is a good chance that at least one of his lawyers will be convicted ahead of Mr. Estrada for trying to mislead the Senate sitting as an impeachment court.

Maria Caridad Rodenas, a cashier of the Land Bank of the Philippines, earlier told the court how three people opened an account at the bank's Mandaluyong branch and withdrew a total of P130 million in August 1998. That was the money Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson claimed Mr. Estrada demanded as kickback for the release of his province's share of excise taxes on tobacco. Singson said the money was withdrawn by employees of the President's crony, Charlie "Atong" Ang, and that he and Ang delivered it to Mr. Estrada's residence in San Juan. Rodenas said she helped the three prepare the necessary bank documents and could identify them if she saw them again.

To cap his cross-examination, Sigfried Fortun, one of Mr. Estrada's lawyer, sprang what he probably thought to be a well-laid trap. He announced to the court that Delia Rajas, whom Rodenas named as one of the three depositors, was in the gallery. He then challenged the witness to pick her out of the crowd watching the proceedings.

After about 20 suspense-filled minutes of going around the gallery and examining the faces of people, Rodenas who was visibly shaken by the experience went back to the witness' stand and declared that she could not find the Rajas who went to the bank.

Then it was Fortun's turn to be in the hot seat, as several senators demanded that he present Rajas. Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. told Fortun he owed it to the court to show that Rajas was actually in the court and warned that he faced possible sanctions "for misleading the members of this tribunal."

Forced to produce Rajas, who turned out to be the cook of Ang's mother. Fortun tried to extricate himself from the fix by saying that all he wanted to do was test Rodenas' credibility. Sen. Vicente Sotto III, the former comedian who has been trying mightily to play the role of hotshot lawyer, tried to save the day for Fortun by prompting him to declare that his intention was to show that two different persons were using the name of Rajas.

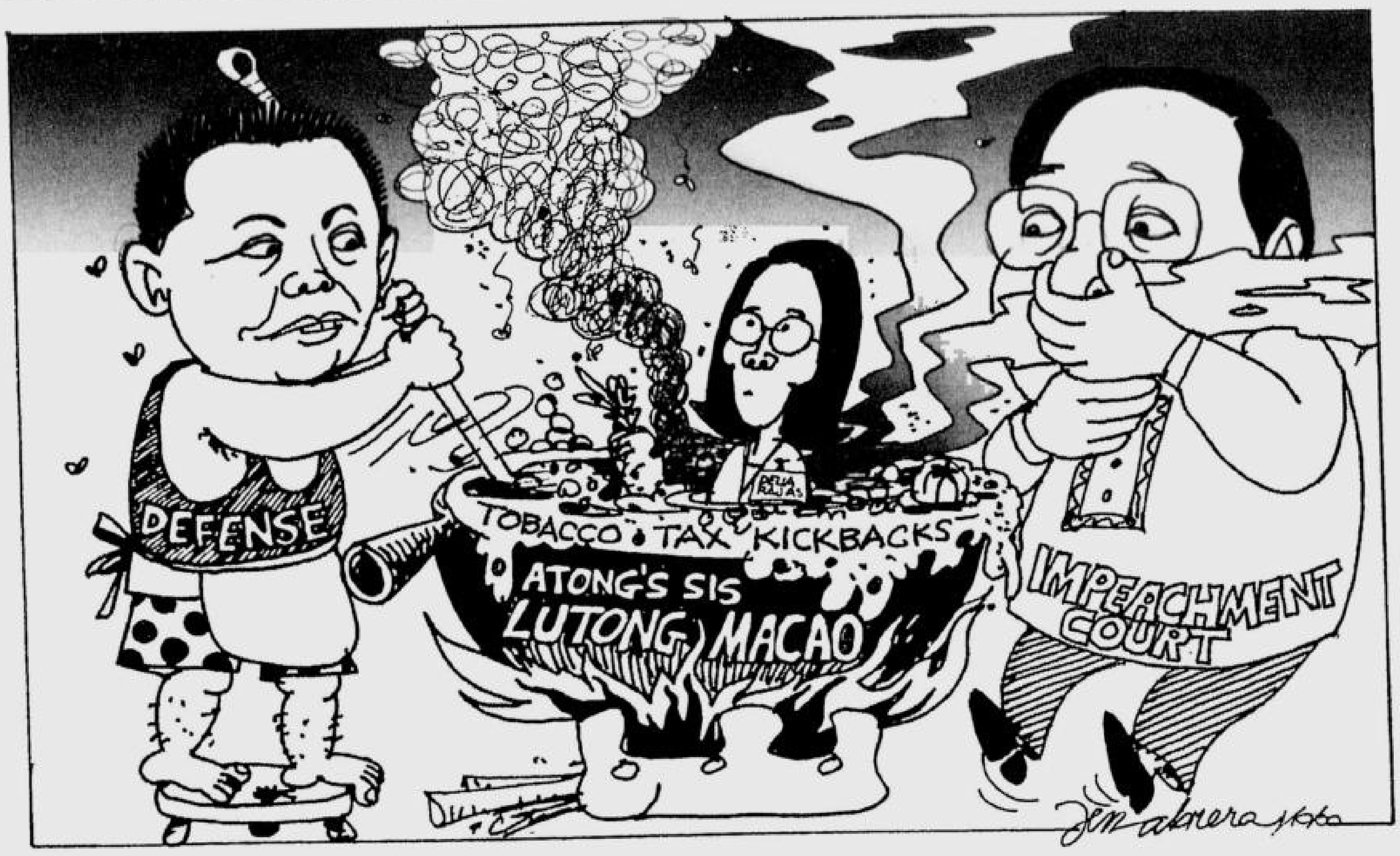
Perhaps it never occurred to Sotto that if that was the intention, Fortun could have simply presented the maid and asked Rodenas if she was the same person who transacted business at Land Bank. Then Fortun wouldn't have had to stage the charade of making Rodenas go around the gallery looking for someone who wasn't there.

But Fortun obviously had something else in mind, and that was to mislead the witness and the court. At one point he even challenged the witness to use the photographs of the depositor who identified herself as Rajas, knowing they were not one and the same person. As Sen. Raul Roco said, Fortun was trying to pull a "trick of mirrors" and was being less than candid with the court.

The question now is, what will the impeachment court do with Fortun and other persons who helped arrange this drama of deceit, including his brother Raymund, another member of the President's defense panel?

This is getting to be a habit on the part of the President's defenders. As early as the Senate blue ribbon committee hearings, Ang and Yolanda Ricaforte already tried to shield the President from the charges leveled by Singson by making some questionable statements. Jaime Dichaves, another friend of Mr. Estrada, also tried to hoodwink the Senate by claiming he was the Velarde who issued a check to buy the "Boracay mansion." (Velarde has since been identified by Equitable PCI Bank senior vice president Clarissa Ocampo as Mr. Estrada.) Dichaves and George Go, then chair of Equitable PCI Bank, also tried to transfer the Velarde trust account in the same bank to Dichaves' name, with the documents being signed in the office of one of Mr. Estrada's principal counsels, Estelito Mendoza. Then Rodenas also disclosed that Yolanda Uy, a sister of Ang, asked her to destroy the records of the transactions relating to the transfer of the excise tax money.

A pattern of deceit has emerged and it has spread to the floor of the Senate itself. Sen. Franklin Drilon has said he might ask the court to cite for contempt the Fortun brothers and their accomplices. The Senate, which wasted no time in disciplining three spectators for allegedly looking "provocatively" at Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago on the latter's mere say-so, ought to act with greater dispatch on this very obvious attempt to obscure the truth and obstruct the administration of justice.



Why did Narvasa allow Fortun's dirty trick?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

FIRST, it was a fake Jose Velarde. Now, it is a fake Delia Rajas. And, most likely, a fake Alma Alfaro and a fake Victor Tan Uy, too. Velarde is the owner of a P1.2-billion bank account in Equitable PCI Bank whom bank senior vice president Clarissa Ocampo testified is really President Estrada himself. Raja, Alfaro and Uy are the persons who withdrew P130 million in tobacco tax kickbacks from the Land Bank and gave them, through Charlie "Atong" Ang, to President Estrada at his residence in San Juan, according to Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson. According to Rep. Joker Arroyo, there are other bank accounts listed under fictitious names that actually belong to President Estrada.

What do these all mean? That we are dealing here with a bunch of hardened felons who would not hesitate to forge and falsify documents in order to steal billions of pesos. Previous to this, one would think that such a caper as this can happen only in the movies but it is now happening in real life. Which is not surprising, since the lead actor in this real-life show is a movie actor masquerading as President. Even the name he is using as President of the Philippines is his screen name (Joseph Estrada), not his real name (Joseph Ejercito).

It does not end there. One of Erap's defense lawyers, Sigfried Fortun, unveiled a show of his own at the impeachment trial that angered the senator-judges who are now threatening to punish Fortun for contempt of court. The defense lawyer asked the prosecution witness, Land Bank cashier Caridad Rodenas, to identify Rajas who was, he said, sitting in the gallery. What he did not say was that the Rajas sitting in the gallery was not the same Rajas who withdrew P40 million from the bank and whom Rodenas was trying to look for. Since that person was not the Rajas in the gallery, how could Rodenas identify her? Fortun's purpose was to impugn the credibility of the witness, thinking that she would point to another person. But the trick boomeranged on the defense. When Rodenas, after 20 minutes of looking, returned to her seat without identifying anybody, she only strengthened her testimony, that she really knew the Rajas who withdrew the money.

In his younger days as an aspiring lawyer, Fortun must have watched too many Perry Mason shows where the flamboyant defense lawyer always unveiled a surprise witness near the end of each episode and won the case for his client. The court always allowed him his dramatics because he was the *bida* and the scriptwriter, director and producer were on his side. Now Fortun wants to be as flamboyant and dramatic as Mason. Except that this is no longer television. This is now real life where he has no scriptwriter and director on his side, his client is no longer the *bida*, and the court does not like to have tricks played on it.

What Fortun did was really a dirty trick and I don't understand why former Chief Justice Andres Narvasa Jr., head of the defense panel, allowed it. The defense lawyers must have discussed the strategy and must have approved it because Fortun went through with the charade. Therefore, all of them conspired to fool the impeachment court and they should all be punished with Fortun. Wouldn't it be ironic if a former chief justice of the Supreme Court were punished for contempt of court? As chief defense counsel, Narvasa could have stopped Fortun's dirty trick if it violated legal ethics, but he didn't. What has his closeness to Erap done to him? Is wrongdoing really that contagious?

* * *

The folly of the defense caper is that even if it had succeeded (if Rodenas made a mistake and pointed to the wrong person) it would have achieved little. Why would she not make a mistake when the person she was supposed to identify was not there at all? Why would she not make a mistake when she was told by the defense lawyer that the person was right there sitting in the gallery when she actually was not even anywhere near?

The defense wanted to establish that the Rajas who withdrew the money was not the same Rajas in the employ of Ang, and that the impostor must be in the employ of Singson instead who must have taken the money for himself. Not necessarily. Where else would Singson get the names for whom the checks were made but from Ang who is the employer of Rajas, Alfaro and Uy? It was easy for Ang to get other persons to impersonate his three employees. The fact that he had to get impostors proves that they knew what they were doing was wrong.

The testimony of Rodenas that Alfaro, who introduced the fake Rajas to her, had been transacting business with the bank for Ang's mother Catalina, is another foot print leading to Ang. And Rodenas' revelation that Ang's sister, Yolanda Uy, asked her four times to destroy the bank records pertaining to the account of Ang's company, Power Express, tends to prove that they knew that what they were doing was a crime and were trying to cover it up.

In fact, "cover-up" is written all over the activities of the Erap gang, from the attempt of Jaime Dichaves to fool the Senate by writing to Senate President Aquilino Pimentel that he, Dichaves, owns the Velarde account, to the preparation and signing of documents in the office of Erap defense lawyer Estelito Mendoza transferring the Velarde account to Dichaves, and now to the efforts of Ang's sister to have Land Bank records destroyed. What will the Senate or the impeachment court do to all these attempts to obstruct justice?

* * *

TODAY's Erap joke:

A man entered Malacañang and shouted "*Tanga si Erap!*" several times.

He was arrested, convicted and jailed for two months for oral defamation. But he was imprisoned for 20 years for revealing a government secret.

Remarkable, too

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I SEEM to have touched a raw nerve with my column last Monday. My e-mail has been deluged with letters since—far more than I got when I wrote that column on Manny Villar's shining hour a couple of months ago. This one has broken all records.

I'm putting out the best ones here, which is also my way of thanking all the letter-writers, who have turned my e-mail into a forest since the INQUIRER made my address public. While at this, let me just take this opportunity to apologize for not being able to answer letters. It's all I can do to just read them.

I've omitted the ones that are purely congratulatory so as not to make the objects of my diatribe unduly furious and my enemies unduly envious. My thanks however to the one who suggested I do a TV program—I can only say that I believe my friends when they say I am better read than seen—and to the one who offered to donate to me her collection of vinyl records. I might take you up on that. I've also omitted the letters that are patently sexist, though with great reluctance as some of them are absolutely hilarious, and those that are patently libelous, or slanderous.

Here they are:

"Some of my lawyer friends here have agreed to offer to pay the psychiatrist's fee for Senator Santiago's evaluation. I am from Samar and a lawyer. Two things I have in common with the senator. I am changing careers and will henceforth claim that I was born in Zamboanga." Raul S. Picardo, San Francisco.

"She would fit right here in New York where half of the inhabitants are on therapy and the other half should be." Gregorio Bailen Jr., New York

"I am Ilonggo myself. But I 'disclaim' Miriam's accent." Lot S. Miranda, Phnom Penh, Kampuchea

"What future do we have if the crimes committed by our President stare us in the face, and our supposedly most intelligent people scramble to protect him? It makes me want to cry." Rodolfo Fermin, Denver, Colorado

"*Tamang tama*, straitjacket for Miriam." Rene Roxas, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

"I was once a fan of Miriam. But now I know her loyalty is not to the people.

"I remember that line from 'Desiderata' that tells us to avoid loud people because they are vexations to the spirit. It's true." A. C. Ramos

"I am a trial attorney in Los Angeles, California and a former student of Miriam D. Santiago at the UP College of Law (although I got my Juris Doctor degree in California). Where is it written that looks may determine the guilt of a person? Ms Santiago acted as a witness, plaintiff or prosecution and judge in barring the three poor souls from the gallery from the hearings. Why was she handled with kid gloves just because she had a tantrum?" Edna Valledor-Wenning, Los Angeles, California

"I am a simple retired American living in the Midwest USA, but I follow your column as published, thereby whetting my interest in Philippine affairs. Congratulations on your article on Ms Santiago." Dr. Louis James Gex

"I am following the impeachment proceedings from Sydney where I am based. I agree with you that someone should admonish Santiago for her behavior in the Senate. I remember when she lashed out at this man during a hearing involving drug testing and how she humiliated people in several other hearings. I once said that I wanted to be in one of these hearings. I promised if she did this to me, I would remind her in my unaccented Filipino that I have as much rights as her and that she has no right to shout at me like that!" Maria Luz Paje

"I can only describe Santiago as a contrast compared to Banal. She is one who doesn't know that respect is earned and not forced upon people. *Masuwerte pa rin tayo. Sa ganitong kilos at uguli na ipinapakita niya ngayon ay sigurado akong kahit barangay* captain *ang takbuhan niya sa eleksyon ay matatalo pa rin siya. Matalino sana siya pero wala sa ayos ang kanyang katalinuhan.*" Ysmael Quitoriano

"It's remarkable how Ms Santiago has turned 180 degrees ever since the time when she vowed to fight corruption. Now, black is white and white is black. Straitjacket emergency, [it] looks like to me." Teresa Limjoco, USA

"I can just imagine Miriam choking on her breakfast this morning while reading your article. What a lovely thought." Louis V. Malixi

"I am a doctor of medicine, a profession almost the opposite of law in many respects. May I suggest that you and your colleagues ask the legal community to disbar Miriam. I am sure there is a law which prohibits disturbed persons from practicing law." Fernando Macarayo, Angeles City

"I hope the voters will not allow bullies like Miriam back into the limelight when this spectacle is over. My apologies to bullies." Reuben

"A UP education, as I learned it and tried to live it (thought not always successfully), is about service to country. It is about using your education for your fellow man. That is why we are called '*iskolar ng bayan*.' That was the reason I moved back here from the United States. I hope this corrects any misimpression given by Santiago." Vincent Lazatin

"I could not say it better! Carry on, Manoy!" Rizal Victoria, Heidelberg, Germany

"What a sad day for lawyers. Even the defense lawyers, some of whom said they took up the cudgels for Erap without pay, must feel humiliated by what Miriam said." P.S. Pantaleon

"Too bad I voted for Miriam during the Student Council days at UP. *Magaling lang palang mag-declaim at mag-claim ng* lawyer's fees." Anak Bin Bapak

"When Miriam was still running for president, I told a friend of mine from Iloilo how proud they must be of her. Here finally was a no-nonsense public official ready to wage war on corruption. My friend shook her head and said they would have nothing to do with her. Now I know why." Marichu M. Ramos

"I am from Tagbilaran City, Bohol. I cannot understand why the presiding officer cannot tell Senator Santiago that she has been very insolent with most of the witnesses…As a law student, I am discouraged by what Santiago said in her questioning of Atty. Banal. I hope what she said is not true of most UP law graduates and lawyers. I think lawyering is more than just making money. Senator Santiago used to be my idol because I thought she was very clever and was a brilliant lawyer. But now I know that she uses her intelligence only for herself." Frederico Ticong

"Miriam reminds me of a tin can when you kick it. It's noisy when it's empty." "Nene"

* * *

Conrad de Quiros' correct e-mail address is dequiros@vasia.com

The garbage crisis

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

A DRIVE along C-5 is enough to impress upon the public that Metro Manila faces a garbage crisis, even more alarming than the crisis of confidence in President Estrada, mainly because its effect is more immediate than the impeachment trial. Without the trial, the garbage pile-up would be Metro Manila's most acute problem and there would be calls by now to sack officials of the Metro Manila Development Authority and Secretary Robert Aventajado, head of the administration's flagship projects. Under Aventajado, location of a dump has become a banner flagship project.

Garbage bags, filled with rotting waste, are devouring C-5 and other Metro streets. They are piled up like sandbags, narrowing the roads. People are dumping refuse on the roadsides because collection of garbage by municipal authorities has stopped. Garbage disposal contractors have stopped collecting because there's no place to dump the refuse. The danger is not that the garbage wall will close traffic. The danger lies in that the filth packed in those bags is a time bomb that can explode into disease and epidemic. An epidemic will be worse than the terror bombings on Dec. 30—an event that highlights another breakdown in the area of law and order.

The growing garbage mountain is the symbol of the complete breakdown of a basic municipal service. No one can be held directly responsible for this breakdown because the MMDA is an amorphous organization. Its chair, former Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, is an appointed official who holds a sinecure while he marks time to run again for a public office. He has no electoral constituency which can pin him down for the breakdown. Despite the garbage anarchy, the administration has not sacked Binay. Aventajado has intervened by working out with Binay more than a year ago a solution to garbage disposal after the closure on Dec. 31 of the San Mateo dump. His involvement is a tacit admission by the national government that it has a responsibility in solving the garbage disposal problem. With Metro residents regurgitating their refuse and using the streets as dumps, Binay and Aventajado have no solution. Aventajado should have been sacked, as well.

But they are stonewalling. Their priority was not solutions or sound garbage disposal mismanagement. Their solution was to look for another dump after efforts to shift the Metro's garbage to other areas in Luzon were rejected by furious provincial and municipal citizens and governments. Their hapless victim in this search is Semirara Island, off Antique. They used strong-arm methods on Antiqueños. They sprang the project on Antique. There was no previous consultations with the Antiqueños. Neither were there hearings. Antiqueños came to know about their province's being the dumping ground of Metro Manila's garbage after Aventajado and Binay had signed a contract to haul the garbage by barge from Manila, and after a garbage disposal contract with Semirara Coal Corp. (SCC) was made. The garbage is to be dumped in a former open pit coal mine which is being converted into a landfill. The first shipment of garbage has been loaded on two barges. A trial court injunction stopped the unloading. The project had no environmental clearance. The clearance was issued by the environment department post-haste after the barges had sailed for Antique.

Semirara Island is 6 kilometers wide and 14 km long, with about 5,500 hectares of land. It is inhabited by about 8,000 people who derive livelihood mainly from fishing. From the island, near where Antique and Capiz meet, one can see the silhouette of Boracay. The waters are rich in fish, underneath which is a carpet of coral reef. Schools of dolphin are sighted around the island.

A manifestation of opposition to the establishment of the garbage dump at Semirara issued by an NGO, United Antiqueños, warns that the open pit mine has an unstable foundation that can cause landslides and seepage of waste fluid to a nearby underground water supply, and even toward the shore and the sea. The dump, the manifestation says, would contribute to air pollution, through gases emitted by decomposing material.

According to the NGO, the MMDA as a sponsor of the dump project, has a track record of not being able to manage properly the waste in Metro Manila, as shown by the problems in San Mateo, Payatas and Smokey Mountain. Aventajado has tried to justify the project with the argument that it is an infrastructure project, and could not therefore be stopped by a temporary restraining order. But Aventajado has to present strong reasons why a waste dump is an infrastructure project. Dumps have environmentally degrading aspects that have to be overcome before they can be considered infrastructure projects needed for national development like expressways.

The infrastructure argument was not invoked in the dump projects that were rejected by Southern Luzon local governments and people, such as the one in Cavite.

The environmental problems, especially marine pollution, flowing from Semirara could spill out to neighboring Boracay. This aspect does not seem to have bothered the Department of Tourism. During the Ramos administration, a high level of seawater pollution at Boracay, coming from defective sewage systems, drove tourists away from that resort.

The impasse stemming from the court injunction and the resistance of the Antiqueños against the conversion of their province into the "garbage capital of the Philippines," forces the MMDA and Aventajado to either push their strong-arm method with the courts, look for another land-fill site, and devise a waste disposal system that recycles waste, to be implemented in Manila. Under the rigorous Clean Air Act, incineration is absolutely banned. But, law or no law, citizens are breaking the ban—they are burning their waste spilled along the highways and streets.

Arrogance and greed

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

UNTIL A few weeks ago, traffic along Marcos Highway would get oppressive around 9 p.m., with vehicle flow slowing to a trickle. This was strange, since traffic usually lightens as the night deepens. But the reason for the traffic was glaringly obvious—and pungent, as well. These were garbage trucks, parked along the shoulders of the highway, and in two, three or four lanes of the highway itself when they ran out of room along the shoulders. The trucks were obviously waiting out the truck ban which was lifted at 9 p.m., and as the time neared, they would even line up all across Marcos Highway, much like race cars revving up for the starting shot, and blocking every other motorist's way. Traffic flow along the highway would ease up a few minutes after 9, but even then, motorists had to watch out for speeding trucks, which would hurtle down the cement road, scattering garbage which flew out of their tarpaulin covers.

More than once, we would spot vehicular smash-ups at night, more often than not involving a garbage truck and another vehicle. I always wondered why and how the truck drivers could get away with their arrogant behavior. It couldn't be because law enforcers didn't know what was going on, for it happened every night around 9, and most everyone living in the area complained about the nightly traffic jams. But if the police and local officials knew what was happening, they apparently chose to look the other way and leave us locals to the mercies of the garbage men. Such behavior was even more breathtakingly arrogant because the garbage was being hauled to the San Mateo dump only at the sufferance of the local communities.

The deadline for closing the dump had already lapsed once, and the garbage trucks were only allowed in again only after much protests and appeals by no less than the President to grant an extension on the deadline. You'd think they'd be on their best behavior with the locals.

* * *

BUT the contemptuous behavior of the garbage truck drivers seems only a metaphor for the way the rest of the metropolis and the other local officials have dealt with the garbage issue.

Now that the officials and people of Rizal and San Mateo have put their foot down and insisted on the dump's closure, and with officials in previous dump locales such as Cavite turning away Metro Manila's garbage, they have even resorted to "exporting" our garbage.

I can well understand why the folks at Semirara and the rest of Panay Island would resist the invasion of *basura* from Metro Manila. Why should their land and their environment be fouled by garbage not of their own making? Why should they be the ones to pay the environmental price for city folks' reckless consumption? And now the leachate from the garbage barges are even threatening the world-famous beaches of Boracay!

* * *

FOR YEARS, environmental activists had been petitioning government that in the wake of the looming garbage crisis (now full-blown and fouling the air), officials should seriously and assiduously pursue a garbage segregation scheme. Garbage segregation, also sometimes known as zero waste, has been shown to be extremely practical and efficient in other countries, even in large cities. In the Philippines, zero waste management programs have also proven successful, although for now only small towns, barangays, private villages and enterprises have practised it.

But for some reason, metropolitan officials have resisted adopting garbage segregation on a large scale. The only concession they made to adopting such a scheme was to order households to segregate their garbage by using color-coded bags. The order, though, was ignored on the whole mainly because the color-coded bags (or even ribbons) were not made widely available, and there was no effort to segregate the bags in the collection trucks and the dumps themselves. Though color-coded, the bags all ended up in the same heap.

What should have been done to show that segregation was being taken seriously? Segregated collection, as in Seoul, where specific days of the week are designated for specific types of garbage. Serious recycling measures, such as collection centers and collection trucks. And public education campaigns on such matters as composting and recycling.

* * *

IT may sound complicated, but it is certainly manageable. And certainly more feasible, less expensive and far less environmentally threatening than a scheme involving loading garbage into barges, sailing over open sea and dumping the garbage on an island. The scheme is fraught with risk, as critics have rightly questioned what would happen in the event of foul weather. If the barges sank, would that not result in depositing tons of garbage into our waters and fouling our marine life? And if the barges could not set sail, would that not mean having growing mountains of garbage sitting around our docks?

Sen. John Osmeña, who hails from the Visayas, in a TV interview had a trenchant question: Why should your garbage be our problem? And he's right. Why should Metro Manila garbage be shipped to far away Semirara when it could very well have been composted and recycled right here?

One answer that occurs to me is that there's very little money to be made by contractors from garbage segregation. And when contractors make no money, they wouldn't have much to share with officials by way of *balato*, perhaps, or outright kickbacks.

Contrast this with the Semirara plan. There are fees and charges galore to be made: by the owners of the fleets of garbage trucks, the pier handlers, the barge owners and the lessors of the Semirara coal mines.

So is it right that the people of Semirara and Panay be made to ultimately pay for the convenience of Mega Manilans and the greed of contractors and officials?

Estrada's filmography

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

SOMETIMES I think I am a librarian's nightmare. The Lopez Museum recently prepared, at my request, everything they had on Philippine archeology, Robert Fox and H. Otley Beyer, but I finished in less than an hour and began an aggressive unexpected search for the real Asiong Salonga. Naturally, I began with the reel Asiong Salonga going through files on Erap's films. My opinion of the President was so low I was surprised that he had four Famas awards for Best Actor in the films: "Markang Rehas" (1962), "Geron Busabos" (1964), "Ito ang Pilipino" (1966) and "Patria Adorada" (1969). It also comes as a surprise that Erap also has a TOYM. Research led to other things other than Asiong Salonga and we only got warmer as librarian Mercy Servida began to develop corns on her feet from climbing up and down bookshelves. My search for Asiong Salonga began in a chronological listing of all Filipino films. I scanned titles from 1959 to 1969 and got hooked.

Some of the films of 1959 were "Insanity," "Pobresita," "Walang Takot," "Rolling Rockers," "Alipin ng Palad," "Ipinagbili Ko Ang Aking Anak," "Tuko sa Madre Cacao," "Taginting ng Pilak," "Handsome," "Barrio Fiesta," "Seksing-seksi (Mapanghalina)," "Asintado," "Baguio Fever," "Sotang Bastos," "Kalabog en Bosyo," "Mucho Dinero," "Aawitan Kita," "Kundiman ng Lahi," "Batas ng Alipin," "Anak ng Kidlat," "Cover Girl," "Arimunding-munding," "Mabilis, pa sa Lintik," "Elevator Scandal," "Ang Maton," "Sa Libis ng Nayon," "Bayanihan," "Modern Cinderella," "Hindi Kita Anak," "Baby Face," "Chinita," "Rosa Rossini," "Hawaiian Boy," "Kamandag," "Ramona," "Big time Berto," "Vicky," "Jimmy Boy," "Pitong Gatang," "Ipinagbili Kami ng aming Tatay," "Esmeralda," "Pitong Biyuda," "Gitarang Ginto," "Anak ng Bulkan," and "Patay kung Patay."

Lest readers get a wrong impression—I was not even born in 1959 and my childhood memories of these grainy, scratchy films came from afternoon TV reruns of these old films. Being an Atenean I felt special affinity for "Anak ng Bulkan." It was about a boy with a giant eagle for a pet. I was depressed when this monster of a bird was shot down by trigger-happy police and military and have always presumed the film was produced by La Salle. What was fascinating was the way these 1959 movie titles resonated in our days although in 2001 the same titles elicit different meanings. "Barrio Fiesta" today is a restaurant built on *crispy pata* and *kare-kare*. "Aawitan Kita" was a TV musical series produced and starring current MTRCB Chair Armida Siguion-Reyna. "Esmeralda" is now an imported Mexican soap opera dubbed for Filipino viewers. And "Jimmy Boy" reminds me of Jimmy Policarpio made famous by Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson's *jueteng* ledger.

From titles alone one could guess the content of the films. Take these films of 1960: "Black Beauty," "Lupa sa Lupa," "Materiales Fuertes," "Beatnik," "Double Cross," "Yantoc-Mindoro," "Hong Kong Honeymoon," "Batingao," "Matandang pa-Charming," "Pakipot," "Tatlong Patak na Luha," "Apat na Gabi ng Lagim," "Juan Tamad Goes To Society," "Princesa Naranja," "Viuda de Oro," "Berdugo," "Lo'waist Gang Joins the Army," "Nakausap ko ang Dios," "Hardin ng Dios," "Limang Misteryo ng Krus," "Navy Blues," "Kuwintas ng Alaala," "Sandakot na Alabok," "Tatlong Magdalena," "Kalawang sa Bakal," "Bigay Hilig," "Pagpatak ng Ulan," "Kadenang Putik," "Sutlang Bakal," "Katotohanan o Guni-guni," "Dahlia," "Pautang ng Langit," "Cuatro Cantos," "Lawiswis Kawayan," "Dead or Alive," "Teenage Crush," "Awit ng mga Dukha," "Akin ang Paghihiganti," "Botica sa Baryo," "Gumuhong Bantayog," "Lintik Lang Ang Walang Ganti," "Dobol Trobol," "Bilanggong Birhen," "Doon Po Sa Amin," "Tres Mosqueteros."

Three films that opened in April 1961—"Nakausap Ko Ang Dios," "Hardin ng Dios," and "Limang Misteryo ng Krus" were obviously made for Holy Week. In 1962 I noted the following films titled with a Lenten flavor: "Sacristan Mayor," "Limos na Dalangin," "Halik ni Hudas," "I Believe," "Dalawang Kalbaryo ni Dr. Mendez," and "Santa Clarang Pinungpino." I am not sure whether all these films had religious content but I do remember that Lent was the annual rerun of the American sword and sandal pictures "Ten Commandments" and "Ben Hur." My mind reels at these racy religious titles: "Tatlong Magdalena" and "Bilanggong Birhen."

Action pictures are easier to spot. In 1961: "Baril sa Baril," "Marahas," "Tirador," "Gulo kung Gulo," "Trigger Squad," "Ang Nabubuhay sa Patalim," "Sino ang Matapang," "Hari sa Barilan," "Bilis sa Bilis," "Hinahamon Kita," "Naguumpugang Bato," "Lalaban Kami," "Lahing Texas," "Rancho Bravo," "Bus to Bataan," "Moises Padilla Story," "Sa Baril Maguusap," "Isang Paa sa Hukay," and "Sikat Na, Siga Pa." In 1962 you had: "Magnum," "Umaapoy na Bakal," "Kambal na Baril," "Kapag Buhay ang Inutang," "Barilan sa Baboy Koral," "Ako Laban sa Daigdig," "Tulisan" and more. While I am inclined to think "Lahing Texas" is a film on cockfighting, it could very well be a Pinoy Western like "Gung-ho vs. Apache" and "Rancho Bravo" and "Barilan sa Baboy Koral."

I also noticed that producers had a thing for numbers particularly lucky seven: "Pitong Atsay," "Pitong Kalbaryo ni Inang," "Siete Bandidos," "Samahang Siete," "Asiong 7," "Pitong Pasiklab sa PC" in 1962. "Pitong Kabanalan ng Isang Makasalanan," "Pitong Lolo," "Pitong Pasiklab sa Pulitika" and "Pinakamalaking takas ng Pitong Atsay" in 1963. "Pitong Cobra" (1964) and "Pitong Mata Hari," "Pitong Mukha ni Dr. Ivan" and "Ang Baril ko'y Pito, ang Sundang ko'y Siyam" in 1965. *(More on Friday)*

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@pusit.admu.edu.ph

The Virata, now the Angara syndrome

OUTLOOK

Rigoberto Tiglao

A BIT of a background. In 1981, a financial crisis broke out, the first dent on the Marcos dictatorship's façade of economic stability. With Lucio Tan's establishment of Asia Brewery and the setting up of the sugar and coconut monopolies, the erstwhile innocuous word "crony" started to become synonymous with corruption. The 1978 election for the Batasang Pambansa started the galvanization of the opposition against the dictatorship. A "noise barrage" against the dictatorship was undertaken that year, and was hugely successful—the prototype of the 1986 People Power Revolt.

Marcos made his move: In June, he appointed Finance Minister Cesar Virata, in a concurrent capacity, as prime minister in the country's short-lived parliamentary government. Virata's appointment was to be the Marcos regime's new beginning. Big business hailed the move, what with Virata's track record as an efficient, no-nonsense technocrat.

Sixto Roxas, a technocrat himself in the 1960s, called it the Virata syndrome: the deployment of technocrats to save an unwanted regime, those technocrats' illusion that they could change things, that governance could be isolated from politics.

Virata wasn't able to save Marcos though. The Virata syndrome turned out to be one of the signals that marked the start of Marcos' fall. The situation even got worse, with the country's foreign debt building up that by 1983, the Philippines defaulted—triggering its worst economic crisis in the post-war period. The problem wasn't really the government, it was Marcos, and the Aquino assassination.

Worse, while Virata was busy trying to clean up the mess Marcos and his cronies created, factionalism worsened within the dictatorship, one led by Imelda Marcos and her brother, another by Eduardo Cojuangco, another by now senator-judge Juan Ponce Enrile.

Déjà vu: Enter Edgardo Angara, the current edition of the Virata syndrome. He isn't really a political leader; he's a technocrat. But it's not the government's administrative machinery that is the big problem now; it is the allegations of corruption on a massive scale against Estrada.

He doesn't even have that crucial "hiring and firing" power that's the real indication of a person in power. Government agencies and corporations will still be manned by Estrada's friends, his friends' friends, those of the Zamora brothers, those of Eduardo Cojuangco, those of Lucio Tan, those of Loi Ejercito, those of Guia Gomez.

It's reading too much to see his appointment as executive secretary as a "bloodless coup." Estrada hasn't at all abdicated any power; he's just taken in a new manager, and gave him more leeway so the former actor isn't bothered too often and won't have to get up early in the morning for the Cabinet meetings.

It is nowhere near the power-sharing scheme made by Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid when he ceded executive authority to Vice President Megawati Sukarnopurti. After all, Megawati's Democratic Party Struggle is the biggest block in the Indonesian People's Consultative Assembly. She would have even defeated Wahid with his smaller National Awakening Party for the presidency if not for the Muslim backlash against a woman president. In fact, it was only Megawati's winning of the vice presidency later on with Wahid's backing which calmed a volatile political situation in Indonesia.

Angara isn't at all our equivalent of Megawati. His Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP) party is now even in its dying throes, racked with defections since "Juetengate" broke out. Our approximation of Megawati would be Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. If Estrada were to cede powers to Macapagal, that would be the real bloodless coup.

Lacson is 100% sure

Philippine National Police Chief Panfilo Lacson is insulting our intelligence when he says he is "100-percent sure" that it is the Moro Islamic Liberation Front that is responsible for the Dec. 30 bombings on the basis of the following evidence, which he says is "solid":

(1) A document was recovered in the MILF's Camp Bushra in November detailing a "feasibility study" intended "to destablize the government, purposely to gain media mileage and to get attention from other countries."

(2) A car was found near the Dusit Hotel which was traced to MILF operatives.

As to Lacson's first "solid" evidence, why was the alleged document recovered only in November? Camp Bushra, on the shores of the Lanao Lake, was overrun back in July. Would such a terrorist, secret plan be put in a document? The "document" was even in English, when MILF documents are usually written either in Maguindanao or Maranao, and even in Arabic. Did the document list the five targets which were hit?

As to Lacson's second evidence, we won't even question what proof he has that it is owned by an MILF operative. Hotel Dusit, ever since it was still the Nikko Hotel, starting in the 1980s has been a favorite of Filipino travelers from Cebu and Mindanao, and the MILF officers aren't really averse to staying in posh hotels.

Lacson, in the "Jeep ni Erap" TV program Saturday, even claimed the attack was made by a "special operations group" directly under MILF Chair Salamat Hashim. The complaint filed by the police with the Department of Justice however claimed the "feasibility study" was found among the personal effects of MILF Vice Chair for Military Affairs Mohamad al-Haj Murad.

Lacson's being "100-percent sure" that the MILF did it is just too convenient for the Estrada presidency. With the MILF's "brutality," the government can now all of a sudden undertake another campaign against the Muslim separatists. Didn't its "all-out" war last year push up Estrada's ratings?

Cheap trick

Another person who's insulting our intelligence is defense lawyer Sigfried Fortun. Maybe in his mind he was Perry Mason in the 15 minutes when Land Bank officer Caridad Rodenas couldn't find in the courtroom "Delia Rajas"—whom the prosecution had claimed withdrew the P50 million for Charlie "Atong" Ang.

Sen. Raul Roco was wrong when he called Fortun's maneuver a "dirty trick." It was a cheap trick. Even a stupid one.

The trick has only convinced more people that Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson's allegations are true. Fortun's "Delia Rajas" turned out to be a cook for the mother of Ang, whom Singson alleged brought the tobacco-tax kickback to Estrada. The crony obviously asked one of his people to use the cook's identity, her Social Security System identification, to withdraw the tobacco-tax money. How would Singson have known the name of the cook of Ang's mother?

That's strike two for the prosecution panel, after last week's revelation that documents intended to conceal Jose Velarde's identity were signed in Estelito Mendoza's office. We can't wait for defense counsel and former Chief Justice Andres Narvasa to be more active in the trial.

* * *

Comments: rtiglao@inq7.net

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LETTERS

Tell that to the Marines

LAWYER Estelito Mendoza, a supposedly high-priced lawyer, wants us to believe a fairy tale. On Dec. 13, 2000, George L. Go, a banker, and Jaime Dichaves, a big-time businessman, suddenly arrived in Mendoza's office. Then came Clarissa Ocampo, who brought along some papers. They exchanged autographs, and, Mendoza chose not to be present in the signing of 'autographs.

In American lingo, Mendoza should be told to: Tell that to the Marines. It is about time that Erap et al. realized that they hired an overrated and not so smart lawyer.—**ARTEMIO T. ORDINARIO, M.D., University of Santo Tomas, España, Manila**

Disappointed with the Vice President

I CAN'T help but express my disappointment with Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo better known as GMA over her continuous clamor and participation in rallies and demonstrations for President Estrada to resign. Her act is very disgusting and indecent for a Vice President.

As a Vice President she should be the one to protect the President because she is second in command. We all know that the charges being cast toward President Estrada are still being investigated and therefore he is not yet guilty until proven so. Nobody has the right to ask him to resign or step down unless he himself chooses to. President Estrada's post was given to him by the majority who believe and trust him and this truth can never be questioned by those among the elite or the opposition who do.

Compared to the past two administrations, Estrada is much better than them because he really exerted efforts to improve the living conditions of the poor especially in Mindanao. His Erap Stores are welcomed and applauded by the people. Here in Zamboanga, there are at least 50 barangays with Erap Stores, and through this store people can purchase their daily needs at a much lower price compared to those in private stores. Although the difference in prices is not that much, still people appreciate it because with all the price increases in commodities, even a little amount saved is welcome than if no concession were made to them.

I do hope that Vice President Macapagal will also see the many good deeds the President has done for the people.—**RAFAEL BLASQUINO, 234 San Jose Road, Zamboanga City**

In cahoots?

SOME have remarked that the prosecutors in the impeachment trial of President Estrada behave as though they are in cahoots with the defense. I believe that the egos and *amor proprio* of politicians prevent them from willingly making fools of themselves.

I am persuaded that the incompetence of the prosecution is perfectly genuine.—**REV. FR. JOSEPH P. FREARY, St. Andrew's Theological Seminary, Manila**

Santiago's career path

NOW we have it straight from the horse's mouth. As a UP College of Law graduate (with apologies to Jasmin Banal and many like-minded UP law graduates), the honorable Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago's career path is to go from a lower-paying job to a higher-paying job. Which explains her transformation from an Erap critic barely a year ago to an Erap admirer now. One can only wonder what or how high was the consideration for this sudden transformation.—**SAMUEL J. YAP, 2 Verbena, Doña Manuela, Pamplona 3, Las Piñas City**

Polluting Antique a second time

ANTIQUE is one of the poorest provinces in the country, almost completely neglected by our national government. National government officials usually go to this province only during the political campaign period—to make empty promises and after they are elected, they forget about Antique. Now, it seems that the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) sees our province as nothing but a garbage pit. Why Antique of all the places? Is that all that we Antiqueños deserve? Waste?

A certain government official, reputedly an environmentalist, said that before the proposal to use Semirara Island as a dump, there was already a coal mine, Semirara Coal Corp., operating in the island that emitted more pollution than the proposed dump. It's the same as saying that since the island is already polluted, it's all right to bring in more pollutants. It's quite unfortunate that that government official, whose function is supposed to be environmental safety, has that kind of thinking. Maybe this government official doesn't know or is pretending to be ignorant that the mining company he was referring to, is an affiliate of DMCI—the consortium that will undertake the proposed dump.

Top officials of the SCC underestimated the opponents to the proposed dump and branded them as a "noisy minority." These SCC officials are nothing but opportunists. They have emptied the Unong site, so they are supposed to restore the damage they have done to it. Yet what they did was to tie up with the MMDA to throw Metro Manila's garbage into the site they have exploited, adding insult to injury. They are moving on to another mining site to exploit some more. They have avoided restoration costs and generated revenue by dumping garbage in it. Isn't that great?—**ROLANDO S. SUMALAGUE JR., Calacja II, Hamtic, Antique, 8 Samuel St., San Francisco del Monte, Quezon City**

Cardinal Vidal's statesman-like comments

I WISH to commend Ricardo Cardinal Vidal of Cebu for his statesmanlike comments on JV Ejercito who had a run-in with media representatives whose reporting on the National Youth Parliament were biased and most unfair.

Cardinal Vidal's comments should be a model for all Filipinos, whatever their religious denominations and political persuasions may be.

The cardinal's comments are a splendid departure from the thinking of many media outlets who think JV's defense of his father is petty vindictiveness on the part of the Estrada family.

It is my hope that religious groups, especially those from the Catholic Church of Cardinal Vidal, would listen to the Cebu prelate's words of wisdom and possibly learn from them.—**ANNE PAYUMO, 4365 Dayap St., Palanan, Makati City**

Seeing through Estelito Mendoza

OBVIOUSLY lawyer Estelito Mendoza was in great moral pain, for he knew he was in big trouble. But his knee-jerk reaction to try to explain his highly suspicious professional conduct as soon as possible, and live on TV before a national audience, brought him into even more trouble.

For if indeed, as he claimed on TV and repeated before the Senate Court, what he and his supposedly "surprise visitors," George L. Go and Jaime Dichaves, talked about last Dec. 13, 2000 was Dichaves' ownership of the "Jose Velarde" P142-million check and corresponding deposit account, and not Jose Velarde's assignment of his Equitable PCI Bank trust account to Dichaves. If so, then poor Mendoza succeeded only in jumping from the frying pan into the fire.

But still he is in mortal danger of the frying pan with its burning oil falling all over his head just the same.

Dichaves' lawyer's letter to the Senate Impeachment Court claiming ownership over the Jose Velarde P142-million check and corresponding bank account was dated Dec. 18, 2000 or five days after Dec. 13 when according to Mendoza, he and Dichaves and Go were already discussing it among themselves! Senators Serge Osmeña and Franklin Drilon emphasized those highly significant Dec. 13 and 18 dates soon after Mendoza made his impassioned manifestation on his own behalf and defense. In short, Drilon and Osmeña saw through a highly probable prevarication or self-incriminating admission, on the part of our Pampango *abogado de campanilla.*

Just as bad is the fact that Mendoza would like the whole nation to believe that Go, the chair of the second or third largest bank in the country, and Dichaves, a high profile presidential crony and virtual communications undersecretary and PLDT's surrogate overall purchasing manager all rolled into one, as rich and powerful as both of them are, could not find any other place to meet and to sign absolutely confidential business contracts involving Erap himself, except in Mendoza's office! And all that supposedly happened without any prior arrangement with Mendoza, or any inkling given to him as to what his surprise visitors and instant office lessees would be talking about or signing contracts if any. And all these sudden favors over a P500-million secret transaction, completely *gratis et amore*!

Oh come on, Titong, do tell us a less incredulous tall story! *Ali ca magloko, mang-asyas ca* (Don't fool us, you might turn to stone)*!*

Incidentally, Mendoza was obviously and overly distraught trying to distance himself as far as the moon, from that Dec. 13 attempt to hoodwink the Senate impeachment probers.

Mendoza merely owned the office, but what about the two named conspirators, who used his office to sign those incriminating papers?

Bear in mind too that it was not the prosecution lawyers who elicited the above Mendoza-Go-Dichaves incriminating testimony from witness Ocampo. It was principally Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste and later, Senators Drilon, Rene Cayetano and Juan Flavier who squeezed it out from the witness. But only because Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile unwittingly started it all by spending more than five minutes trying to trip Ocampo, to no avail. But with incredibly grave albeit unintended consequences, for the Mendoza, Go and Dichaves trio.

Had Enrile kept quiet, Mendoza would not be in moral pain today. Hubris? Or Divine Providence at work? Yes, the Lord God of Perfect Justice is very much in control! Regardless of what many assorted yet puny prevaricators and conspirators try to do, to hide the truth and run away from justice.—**EDUARDO B. OLAGUER, Aurora Milestone Bldg., 1045 Aurora Boulevard, Quezon City**

Another Oblate martyr

WE, members of the Kaalagad Katipunang Kristiano join all peoples of faith and goodwill in expressing our sorrow and outrage on the murder of yet another Oblate missionary, Fr. Benjie Innocencio, OMI. We extend our condolences to and our solidarity with the family of Father Benjie, as well as the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, the Vicariate of Jolo and the whole Philippine Church.

Father Benjie's murder is a horrendous way to end the Great Jubilee Year and to welcome the New Millennium. It is a sad and frightening commentary on the kind of society we have built for ourselves. At the same time that it is also an urgent challenge to us Christians and all peoples of goodwill to work even more incessantly for genuine and lasting peace that is rooted on compassion and justice.

There is a prophetic message for us in the fact that Father Benjie was murdered a day after we celebrated Eid'l Fitr, marking the end of fasting in the Islamic holy month of Ramadhan, and the end of a Vicariate-sponsored seminar on the culture of peace. It declares that although Father Benjie was a priest for only eight short years, he had deeply internalized and generously committed himself to the Gospel mandate to promote authentic peace, not through enmity or violence, but through compassion, justice and reconciliation.

Like his Master, Jesus Christ, Father Benjie showed through his life, work and bloody death, that indeed, to love God is to serve His abandoned poor.

We condemn the heartless and wanton murder of Father Benjie and demand justice for him, his family and the people he loved so much and served so caringly. We commit ourselves to turning this dastardly act into yet another source of strength and dedication for the promotion and defense of true and lasting peace.—**FR. BEN A. MORALEDA, CSSR, national spokesperson, Kaalagad Katipunang Kristyano, 14 Mariposa St., Cubao, Quezon City**

QC subdivisions fencing their streets

THIS has reference to the newly enacted Quezon City Ordinance No. SP-946, S-2000, which allows subdivisions to put fences on their roads and limiting their use to residents, thereby excluding other motorists.

We appeal to Quezon City Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr. that he direct the City Engineer's Office, the Department of Public Order and Safety, the City Planning and Development Office and Barangay Council of Tandang Sora to determine if there is a proper observance of said ordinance.

Sooner or later, traffic chaos will ensue in our area if many or all subdivisions would fence or enclose their subdivision streets for their own reasons. The purpose and intent of the interconnecting roads will be defeated. A compromise between the subdivisions' residents and the public is imperative to resolve the issue.—**RAMON B. ZAMUCO SR., Tandang Sora, Quezon City**

photography Wahoo Guerrero
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A hard look at prosecution

COMMENTARY

Asuncion David Maramba

THESE are friends speaking. But heads are shaking. There is no time to lose. The hour is late.

Walking out of the trial last Jan. 4, why did I, without wanting nor meaning to, tell a friend, "I have a sinking feeling..."? And softly she said, "the prosecution is not so, well, not so...," and her voice trailed off. My younger companion was more forthright, "*Mahina ang* prosecution."

Showmanship isn't all, it isn't even essential; it's mere dressing. But unfortunately, perception counts and the perception is that the prosecution suffers in comparison—in alertness, in persistence, in procedural expertise and in coordination. All this may just seem so, with emphasis on "seem"; but for many, perception doesn't "seem," it "is."

Shape up; be on your toes; get your act together. "He doesn't project well." "Why do they choose him to cross-examine?" "He's out of practice." "Why didn't they get so-and-so as prosecutor?" "How come a witness for the prosecution is neutralized and becomes good for the defense?" In but two-minute questionings, thank God for senator-judges who are able to draw out data and make points. Thank God for them.

Let's ventilate these negative comments now rather than later in a post mortem, ruing all the might-have-beens and saying what-the-prosecution-should-have-done. In fact I was tempted to title this "Post Mortem" in the hope of rousing the prosecution from the dead, so to speak, and precisely to abort regrets. Why not gain the uses of a post mortem before it's too late.

I presume that the prosecution assess how much or how little they have established every objective for which they present every witness. And if "little," I presume they ask why. I assume that they tabulate these each day and connect the links as they emerge and see the gaps they have yet to fill. I assume that they grade their performance regularly. What's the score. How many good days, how many bad, and why. I presume they are aware that the defense beats them in the alacrity with which the former raises objections; in the reminders that witness answer only "yes" or "no" (even for questions that can't be answered that way); while they allow witness to go on and diminish the value of his/her answer. I not only presume, but I know that the prosecution is second to none in knowledge, dedication and conviction. I can see that Rep. Joker Arroyo is in fighting form and I assume that the rest are. I presume that they strategize. But let it show! For heaven's sake.

It is crystal clear that defense is crippling prosecution with technicalities, the principal ammunition in the defense of dubious characters; and defense is making it as lethal as possible.

We may not be lawyers but we know that the law has two faces: the spirit and the letter; the substance and the technicalities. And we also know that spirit and substance are superior and should be upheld.

But alas, with deft handlers armed with such thin ammunition as technicalities and delaying tactics, the opposite can happen. This defense knows how to harness the *desperado* energy of a team coming from behind. Even seated, you can almost see their antenna up, on the ready to attack. As for the prosecution, is telepathy traveling between them as they sit in their corner or are they buried in their own thoughts? Even with public opinion and truth on their side, prosecution can ill afford to go slack and rest on the laurels of the Singson and Ocampo revelations. The performance belongs to the members of the prosecution and to them alone.

Much will depend on the integration going on day to day and the trying of all the ends, up to the final stretch. As somebody observed, all this is like a jigsaw puzzle. Every day, prosecution fits pieces in; every day, defense tries to push them out. The pieces must be made to stick until the picture emerges. Or to use another metaphor—trees surround us and we must not miss the forest for the trees.

Years ago, I was a bit shocked when I first heard it—"The courts do not render justice; they render the law." (Till then I thought that justice and law were always interchangeable.) Now more than ever, that statement is ringing in my ears. This impeachment does not even involve a bad or defective law; but how I fear that the tyranny of the letter of the law may kill the spirit; that the paralyzing literalness, the rejection of the self-evident, the detail overload, the absurd repetitions, the shredding of minutiae, words put in the mouths of cornered witnesses, can snuff the life out of truth. In instances like this, doesn't the law frustrate itself?

Asuncion David Maramba is a book editor, a retired professor and an occasional journalist.

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The WORLD

MARGOT J. BATERINA, Editor

200,000 protest Jerusalem split

JERUSALEM—More than 200,000 Israelis, some wrapped in blue and white Israeli flags, jammed the streets outside the ancient walls of the Old City of Jerusalem, protesting proposals to give control of a disputed holy site to the Palestinians.

One of the biggest demonstrations in Jerusalem's history, it reflected opposition to a key point of US President Bill Clinton's peace ideas, and spelled trouble for Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak, facing an election Feb. 6 with only one real issue—his readiness to make painful compromises for peace with the Palestinians.

Clinton was sending his Middle East envoy, Dennis Ross, for talks with Israeli and Palestinian leaders, as Clinton made a last-ditch effort to wring an agreement out of the reluctant neighbors before he leaves office Jan. 20.

The signs were not encouraging. The two sides disagreed about the outcome of a meeting Sunday in Cairo, chaired by CIA director George Tenet and attended by Palestinian, Israeli and Egyptian security officials.

Israel's government said in a statement late Monday that the talks had achieved understandings "for reducing violence and preventing terror." Under those agreements, Israeli and Palestinian commanders would meet "for the purposes of coordination and updates."

Mohammed Dahlan, the Palestinian security chief for Gaza, insisted there had been no such agreement—or any other—out of Cairo. The Palestinians had refused even to discuss a request to arrest Hamas and Islamic Jihad activists, Dahlan added.

Israel is seeking renewed security cooperation with the Palestinians to help foil armed attacks and bombings before it eases travel restrictions inside the West Bank and Gaza. The Palestinians say the restrictions must be lifted first.

In the West Bank, a 27-year-old Palestinian man was shot and killed late Monday in a clash with Jewish settlers. Palestinians said the confrontation started with Palestinian villagers stoning a settler's car.

Also in the West Bank, a 12-year-old Israeli boy was wounded when Palestinian gunmen ambushed his family's car.

Most of the dead in three months of violence have been Palestinians.

Clinton's peace proposals call on Israel to make concessions in Jerusalem in exchange for a drastic reduction of the Palestinian demand to that millions of refugees and their descendants be allowed to return to Israel.

Both sides have rejected the compromises they were asked to make. However, a Palestinian official, requesting anonymity, said a speech by Clinton Sunday had a positive element—his first public mention of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. *AP*

THOUSANDS of Israelis gather at the Old City walls of Jerusalem near the Jaffa Gate to protest any partition of the holy city in a future deal with Palestinians.

REUTERS

Beijing attacks Tiananmen papers, claims forgery

BEIJING—China's government on Tuesday rejected newly published documents vividly describing how Chinese leaders split over the crushing of the 1989 Tiananmen Square protests, suggesting that the papers are fake.

"Any attempt to play up the matter again and disrupt China by the despicable means of fabricating materials and distorting facts will be futile," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhu Bangzao said in a statement issued early Tuesday morning via the official Xinhua News Agency.

The crackdown was "highly necessary to the stability and development of China," Zhu said. He said the ruling Communist Party's "correct conclusion" about the 1989 protests would not change.

It was the first official reaction to the papers, which were purportedly smuggled out of China by a disaffected civil servant and were published over the weekend.

Beijing has long argued that the protests were an anti-government rebellion that needed to be crushed to safeguard economic growth and Communist Party rule. It has ignored calls for an investigation into the bloody June 4, 1989 crackdown, in which hundreds were killed, and sought to silence victims' relatives who have demanded redress.

Initially, the government had no comment Monday about the documents released in the United States, and China's wholly state-run media did not report them. But despite the blackout, news of the papers quietly leaked into China via the Internet, foreign radio broadcast and word of mouth, stirring the beginnings of debate.

The documents detail conversations among late Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping, who ordered the Tiananmen crackdown, and other Communist leaders. They are said to be based on never-before-published minutes of secret high-level meetings, Chinese intelligence reports and records of Deng's private phone calls.

The civil servant who provided the documents describes himself as a Communist Party member sympathetic to reformers. They appear in "The Tiananmen Papers: The Chinese Leadership's Decision to Use Force Against Their Own People." It was published by Public Affairs. *AP*

Timor militia chief hailed a hero

JAKARTA—A lawyer defending East Timor's notorious militia leader Eurico Guterres told a court Tuesday that his client should be hailed as a "hero to the homeland" rather than charged with weapons offenses.

Guterres is facing trial for allegedly ordering his followers on Sept. 24 to take back weapons they had surrendered to the police in Indonesian-controlled West Timor as part of a disarmament program.

"Eurico struggled to defend Indonesia's sovereignty in East Timor," defense lawyer Suhardi Sumomulyono said. "We reject the prosecutor's allegations. The charges are very weak because Eurico, as a fighter, has to have weapons to defend himself."

About 50 Guterres supporters crowded into the courthouse in Jakarta while a dozen demonstrated outside demanding the defendant's release.

After the trial several of Guterres supporters carried him out of the court on their shoulders.

"I am innocent," Guterres told journalists. "I was defending the red and white flag in East Timor."

The colors red and white make up Indonesia's national flag.

At least 200 police officers were deployed around the court.

The trial, which opened on Jan. 2, was adjourned until next Monday.

Guterres' gang, aided by parts of the Indonesian military, destroyed much of East Timor's capital, Dili, in September 1999 after the territory voted in a UN-organized ballot to break free of Indonesian rule.

When international peacekeepers arrived to restore order, he and hundreds of other anti-independence fighters fled to West Timor where they seized several border camps and terrorized thousands of refugees from East Timor.

Six other militiamen have also been accused of murdering three UN aid workers in West Timor on September.

Their trial started on Thursday in a Jakarta court, but was adjourned because the defendants' lawyers failed to turn up.

The men face up to 15 years in jail if found guilty, said Tumpak Sihombing, a spokesperson for the North Jakarta District Court. *AP*

GUTERRES

Fujimori opponent registers his candidacy for president

LIMA—Alejandro Toledo, the opposition leader whose fiery speeches helped topple Alberto Fujimori, registered his candidacy for president.

Toledo, a US-trained economist, has a commanding lead in the polls and is favored to win the presidency, although he could face a runoff if he fails to win 50 percent of the votes in the April 8 election.

At least 10 presidential hopefuls had registered their candidacies with the National Elections Board before Monday's midnight deadline.

But grabbing the news spotlight Monday was former President Alan Garcia, who was nominated by his left-leaning Aprista party as its presidential candidate in the upcoming elections. He said he would return to Peru from Colombia, where he sought political asylum in 1992.

"I will return to Peru because the dictatorship has fallen," Garcia told radio station Radioprogramas earlier Monday.

Garcia's 1985-90 populist administration was marred by guerrilla violence, corruption and hyperinflation, and he faces arrest on corruption charges if he returns to Peru. His supporters have lobbied hard in recent weeks to have the charges dropped.

Over the weekend, they presented a videotaped statement from a businessman recanting a 1995 accusation that Garcia extorted a $1.25 million kickback. He claimed Fujimori's intelligence agents forced his testimony, threatening him and his family.

Leading contender Toledo boycotted a presidential runoff against Fujimori on May, alleging the ballot was being rigged. The move helped galvanize Peru's splintered opposition against the autocratic leader following an election campaign marred by government irregularities and allegations of fraud. *AP*

Military plane with 10 missing

JAKARTA—Seven helicopters and six planes scoured Irian Jaya's remote highlands Tuesday as the search resumed for a Navy plane carrying senior Army, police and civilian officials that went missing over dense jungle.

The twin-turboprop Indonesian-built Casa NC-212 aircraft lost radio contact soon after it took off Monday from the mining town of Timika with 10 people aboard on what was supposed to be a 90-minute flight to Jayapura, the provincial capital, police and aviation authorities said.

On board were Maj. Gen. Tonny Rompis, the region's top military commander, and newly appointed provincial police chief, Maj. Gen. Sumardi, as well as three senior local government officials and five crew members.

The National Search and Rescue Agency said there was no Mayday signal and the cause of the loss is unknown.

"There has been no sign of the plane," said Capt. Supri Antono from the agency's office in the town of Wamena.

He said planes belonging to a US-owned mining company and Christian missionaries had joined in the search. But rescue efforts were being hampered by low cloud and the thick jungle canopy covering the terrain.

Irian Jaya, on the western half of New Guinea and the eastern end of the Indonesian archipelago, is one of the world's last great tropical wildernesses with almost impenetrable rainforests and soaring mountain ranges.

There are few roads and air travel has become the only reliable form of transport in the mineral-rich but economically underdeveloped region, which covers 422,000 sq. km.

It is one of several restive Indonesian provinces wracked by separatist violence. Clashes between pro-independence activists and the military have escalated in recent months despite peace efforts by Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid. *AP*

Heavy snow kills 4, destroys property on Sokor coastline

SEOUL—Four people have been killed and property worth hundreds of millions of dollars destroyed in heavy snow and high waves this week, government officials said Tuesday.

Three fishermen drowned after two boats capsized in high waves near Cheju island off the southern coast and a fourth was swept away while fishing, the Central Disaster Headquarters said.

Up to 98 centimeters of snow has blanketed South Korea since Sunday.

Hundreds of domestic flights were canceled and some international flights delayed Sunday, stranding tens of thousands of tourists. Flights resumed Monday.

The snowfall decreased Monday, but the authorities retained a heavy snowfall warning for most of the nation and a storm warning for all seas around the Korean Peninsula.

Property damage was estimated at $150 million.

Two dozen houses and thousands of barns and fish farms have been destroyed while over a million stock animals, mostly chickens, were killed, government officials said.

Parts of the nation's major highways and roads have been also blocked, causing heavy traffic jams. About 74,000 soldiers and cleaning workers were deployed to clear snow.

On a highway in the northeastern region, hundreds of people slept in their cars Monday night, waiting for workers to clear snow from the roads. Cars began to move slowly early Tuesday.

Rescue workers delivered food to the drivers and took two bus passengers who suffered from dehydration to hospitals using a fire department helicopter, officials said. *AP*

GANGES RIVER FESTIVAL

Hundreds of thousands of Hindus and tourists brave cold temperatures of Allahabad northern India for the Kumbh Mela festival beginning Jan. 8. The pilgrims plunge themselves into the icy waters of the Ganges River for a series of pre-dawn bath rituals to wash away their sins. The festival takes place once in 12 years.

Malaysia opposition rejects Mahathir offer for talks

KUALA LUMPUR—Two key Malaysian opposition parties have spurned Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's offer for talks to heal a rift among the dominant Malay Muslim ethnic group that has long formed his power base but is increasingly deserting him.

The rejection was widely anticipated. Opposition parties said Tuesday they want any dialogue with Mahathir's party, the United Malays National Organization, to include issues that concern all Malaysians and not just the majority ethnic group.

These include the abuse of power, corruption, judicial independence and police brutality—all excesses that the opposition coalition accuses Umno, which had long had the near-total support of Malay Muslims, of fostering under Mahathir's 19-year rule.

The National Justice Party, led by the wife of jailed former deputy premier Anwar Ibrahim, and the fundamentalist Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party, which won a big chunk of anti-Umno votes from Malay Muslims in elections in 1999, said that Mahathir's proposed talks aimed at simply uniting the Malay Muslims into a single political bloc again were not enough. Malaysia has large ethnic Chinese and Indian minorities.

"We are a multiethnic party," Chandra Muzaffar, Justice Party deputy president, told The Associated Press on Tuesday. "We want talks that will help national integration and not just confined to a single race."

The Islamic party, or PAS, which is the largest opposition group and governs two of Malaysia's 13 states, said it would talk only if Mahathir agrees "to talk on issues such as judicial independence, corruption and national integration," Secretary General Nasharuddin Mat Isa said.

Mahathir offered to hold talks with Azizah Ismail, Anwar's wife, and PAS President Fadzil Noor, last week before he left for a working visit to Burma.

The offer reflects Umno's weakening support among Malay Muslims since Anwar was sacked in 1998 during a conflict with Mahathir over coping with the Asian economic crisis. *AP*

CITIZEN'S MEDAL FOR LIZ REUTERS

President Clinton presents the Presidential Citizen's Medal to screen legend Elizabeth Taylor at a ceremony in the White House, Jan. 8. Clinton awarded medals to 28 honorees for the remarkable service and accomplishments in a variety of areas.

Bush gives his full backing to Labor secretary-designee

AUSTIN—President-elect George W. Bush gave his full backing to his Labor secretary-designee, Linda Chavez, despite the revelation that she provided money and housing to an illegal immigrant. The woman said Chavez knew she was illegal, an assertion a Bush spokesperson denied.

Marta Mercado said she was never formally employed by Chavez in the early 1990s—federal law prohibits hiring illegal immigrants. Instead, Chavez had simply "opened all of her house because she knew about my situation," Mercado said, adding that she told Chavez she was illegal.

"She knew I was not legal in this country," Mercado told The Associated Press. "She knew I didn't have my green card. I wanted to get it, but it was not easy. . . . She had the intention to be my sponsor. She told me one day that she wanted to help me."

A spokesperson for Bush, Tucker Eskew, gave a different account Monday, saying Chavez "came to know of this woman's status sometime after she had left her home, when the woman returned to Guatemala."

Several Bush aides said Chavez told his advisers she did not know Mercado was in the country illegally until the woman had left her home.

Mercado said FBI agents interviewed her about her ties to Chavez on Sunday. Though rarely enforced, knowingly harboring an illegal alien is prohibited by federal law—a fact Democrats who oppose Chavez' nomination were exploring ahead of her Senate confirmation hearing, Jan. 16-17.

Bush, who said he learned of the matter Sunday night, stood by his nominee Monday. "I strongly believe that when the Senate gives her a fair hearing, they'll vote for her," he said.

The president-elect faced a barrage of questions on the subject on two separate occasions Monday, 12 days before his inauguration. He said of Chavez, "I firmly believe she'll be a fine secretary of labor."

Democrats promised a vigorous examination of the case. Sen. Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts, the top Democrat on the committee considering the Chavez nomination, called the new information "very troubling." *AP*

Official says gov't put down Abidjan coup try

ABIDJAN—Ivory Coast's president appeared to be in control after an attempted coup that saw gunfire and heavy weapons fire rattle through the streets of this once-peaceful West African city.

Although sporadic gunfire persisted until midday Monday, the security forces appeared to have quashed the uprising, which left at least eight people dead.

"Ivorians can heave a sigh of relief," Interior Minister Emile Boga Doudou said on state television. "Their country has not experienced another coup d'etat."

President Laurent Gbagbo described those behind the coup attempt as "amateurs."

Officials did not identify the organizers of the rebellion, saying only that they included soldiers and civilians.

"They are really children . . . I knew nothing would happen," Gbagbo said on state television from his home village of Mama, in western Ivory Coast, where he had gone on holiday.

Ivorians, however, did not seem convinced. Streets were almost deserted in much of Abidjan, Ivory Coast's main city, apart from soldiers brandishing guns.

Two bodies, one in civilian clothes and the other stripped to his underwear, lay by a highway on the edge of downtown. At least six more bodies were outside the state television offices in the exclusive Cocody suburb.

Government officials said two security force members and at least four assailants had been killed. It wasn't clear if all those were among the bodies found.

Officials suggested at least some of the plotters were supporters of opposition leader Alassane Dramane Ouattara, who was excluded from last year's presidential elections and who is in France.

Defense Minister Lida Kouassi never mentioned Ouattara by name, but said military aircraft intercepted a convoy of armed vehicles escorting a Mercedes that was heading toward Abidjan from the north.

After being attacked from the air, the convoy turned back toward the town of Kong, Ouattara's hometown, Kouassi told reporters after a Cabinet meeting.

He also said some mutineers demanded that prison authorities release three prominent members of Ouattara's Rally of the Republicans party.

Amadou Coulibaly, a Rally spokesperson, denied the party was behind the violence.

Ivorian forces pursued the convoy Monday, Kouassi said, adding that authorities were particularly concerned not to let it cross any borders—an apparent reference to Burkina Faso, whose government has ties to Ouattara. *AP*

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- ASSERTIVENESS TRAINING FOR MGRS AND SUPERVISORS
  January 13 2001 Saturday 1:00PM-5:00PM
- CREDIT AND COLLECTION MANAGEMENT
  January 15 - 26 2001 M-W-F 6:00PM-8:00PM
- EFFECTIVE VEHICLES MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT
  January 20 – February 3 2001 Saturday 1:00PM-5:00PM
- MODERN PURCHASING MANAGEMENT
  January 13 2001 Saturday 1:00PM-5:00PM
- COST ESTIMATION FOR BUILDING CONSTRUCTION
  January 20 – February 3 2001 Saturday 1:00PM-5:00PM
- PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL
  January 13 2001 Saturday 1:00PM-5:00PM
- WAREHOUSE OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT
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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Bills legalizing 'jueteng' doomed, says legislator

URDANETA CITY--It looks like legalizing jueteng is doomed because, for the third time, Congress failed to pass the bill legalizing it and other numbers game.

"Time is running out and even if the House could hasten its passage, the Senate is adjourning on Feb. 8 for the May elections and could no longer discuss or pass it," said Pangasinan Rep. Amadeo Perez Jr.

He said the bill legalizing the numbers game had been submitted to the 9th and 10th Congress. Anti-gambling advocates, however, had been opposing the bills.

The 11th Congress, the third Congress to propose the legalization of jueteng, had discussed the proposal at the committee on ways and means.

"It's very sad that the committee sat down on the bill for more than a year. I was told there were plenty of bills discussed by the committee. The bill will be scheduled for floor debate," Perez said.

Quezon City Rep. Dante Liban sponsored House Bill 344 or the proposed "act legalizing jueteng and providing for the creation of the lottery corporation of the Philippines and for other purposes." He filed the bill on July 7, 1998. The bill is now with the committee of games and amusement.

Perez, chair of the committee on accounts, was head of the committee on games and amusement when the bill was filed.

Under the bill, jueteng, *masiao*, daily double and other illegal numbers game would be legalized.

Perez said the operations will be called Pilipino Lottery and will be under the supervision of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor).

He said since people patronize jueteng, "we might as well protect the bettors by having draws that are transparent and are under the supervision and scrutiny of the national government."

He said the authors of the bill were pushing it because the national government was interested in legalizing jueteng.

"*Sayang* (It is such a waste) that for the third time, the bill would again be confined to the dustbin," Perez said.

If legalized, the numbers game could contribute about P5 billion in taxes annually to the national treasury, he said. ***Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

THE DUTY to protect an island from ruin calls even the young. Rallies have been held against plans to dump Metro Manila trash on Semirara Island despite threats and harassment from the project proponents.

NEREO LUJAN

Semirara folk harassed to accept Metro trash

BY NEREO LUJAN
PDI Visayas Bureau

SEMIRARA ISLAND, Antique—Manong Ando (not his real name) joined the protest rally that greeted the arrival of the three barges that brought Metro Manila's garbage to this island over the weekend.

On Wednesday, another protest action is set to be staged on the island but Manong Ando will no longer be there.

In his late 50s and the lone breadwinner in a family of five, he fears a court case for a huge debt he owed an employee of the Semirara Coal Corp. (SCC).

The debt remained unpaid for a year and just the other day, in the middle of the night, he was shocked when told that the money he borrowed skyrocketed due to interests.

But Manong Ando, a carpenter, still has a way out. He was told by the four men who visited him in the night that his debt will be condoned if he will no longer join any protests on the sanitary landfill project.

He reluctantly agreed.

Iyay Gloria, 42, a widow and fish vendor, also had the same midnight visit.

Four men, their waists bulging with what appeared to be handguns, reminded her of her debt with the SCC Hospital when her daughter got sick last year.

Iyay Gloria never joined the rally but his son Lando did. It would not be a surprise if Lando will not be seen in the picket lines anymore.

But an official of R-2 Builders, a member of the consortium that will operate the sanitary landfill, yesterday denied the alleged harassment.

"There is no reason for the consortium to resort to anything like this," said Melanie Lapore, senior manager of R-2 Builders' corporate communications department.

"This is only hearsay because from the very start we have been dealing with anyone in a legal manner," she added.

R-2 Builders is the partner of the DMCI Holdings Inc., which owns SCC, in the operation of an "Interim Integrated Waste Management Facility," the official name of the sanitary landfill on Semirara.

The 28-hectare Panian Pit, an active coal mine operated by SCC, is the site of the proposed landfill.

Lapore said both the DMCI and R-2 have been in the business for a long time "and we will not destroy the reputation of these two companies which we have earned over the years."

The DMCI Holdings Inc. and Caluya Mayor Nikita Frangue have put up a 24-hour Public Assistance Center that will provide information to residents, journalists and visitors.

Senior Supt. Rodolfo Ebardo, public information officer of the Police Regional Office in Western Visayas, said the center was put up to avoid possible tension among groups on the island.

Ebardo said the situation on Semirara is relatively peaceful as reported to him on Sunday by the 1st Mobile Group of the Antique Police Provincial Office.

But the nightly atmosphere on Semirara Island has gone from bad to worse.

Not only that the pacific sea breeze has become foul because anchored nearby are barges full of garbage, but because the quiet, dark streets have also turned into intimidation zones.

Dogs bark continuously as silhouettes of armed men roam the neighborhood. They knock on doors and windows of residents, rousing them from their sleep, reminding them of this and that, and leaving them with words of caution.

"Apparently, they have a list of weak points of people that include unpaid cooperative and hospital debts, rents, tricycle loans and even extra-marital affairs," said Caluya Vice Mayor Diosdado Egina.

"They would even threaten people with bodily harm and death, too," he said in Kiniray-a.

Egina recalled that residents who had opposed the continuation of SCC's operation following the closure of its first mine site in 1998 had similar experiences.

"Once they see you in rallies or community meetings, you're sure to find persons knocking at your door in the middle of the night," he added. ***With a report from Hazel Villa and Connie Fernandez, PDI Visayas Bureau***

ROUNDUP

Street kids tapped in cleanup bid

DAGUPAN CITY—The city government will tap street children here for its cleanliness drive to keep them away from illegal drugs. Mayor Alipio Fernandez Jr. said the street children would be paid to clean the city's streets and to monitor people who throw garbage on the streets. He said the children would be tapped for two hours daily. He said involving the street children in community projects would help them earn money and turn them away from illegal drugs. The city won the Child Friendly Award from the Department of Social Welfare and Development in 1999.

Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

City Hall clerk held for drugs

HAGONOY, Bulacan—Police arrested a Manila City Hall clerk in Barangay San Sebastian here on charges of possession of illegal drugs. Rene Batan, 47, was arrested Wednesday for allegedly possessing five plastic sachets containing 20 grams of shabu worth P20,000. Police said they arrested Batan while he was selling shabu in the house of Vicky de la Cruz in the village.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

2 fires hit Cotabato; 6 hurt

COTABATO CITY—At least six people were injured while a 16-year-old boy was reported missing when fire struck a residential area near the pier early Tuesday night. Arson investigators said the fire could have been caused by the explosion of a liquefied petroleum gas canister. At least 30 houses made of light materials were destroyed in the 45-minute fire. The damage was placed at P2.5 million. Investigators said an explosion was heard in the house of a certain Rakma Maliga on Raja Tabunaway Boulevard at about 6:30 p.m. shortly before the fire. The blaze spread to nearby shanties and Teksing, a landing area where crabs and shrimps are being sold. A teenager, identified as Jerry Bati-on, 16, was missing after the boat he was riding in caught fire. Injured were Soraida Ampatuan, Loy Calusiag, Rakma Calusiag, Melvin Seba, his son Melvin Jr. and Rakma Maliga. Earlier, at 12:30 a.m., fire also gutted eight commercial establishments along Sinsuat Avenue here, including the editorial office of the weekly Mindanao Headliner.

Edwin Fernandez and Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Gov quits to run for House seat

PAGADIAN CITY—Three-term Gov. Isidoro Real Jr. of Zamboanga del Sur has resigned from his post effective Jan. 8 to run for congressman. Real said that even if he was entitled to stay in office until the last day of the filing of certificates of candidacy on Feb. 14, "I thought it unethical (to stay on until then)." "I could have maximized (the) capitol's resources" for his congressional bid in May "but *delicadeza* prompted me to step down." "I might be branded as an opportunist," he said. Romeo Vera Cruz, the vice governor who took over from Real, said: " I wish President Estrada were like him, with *delicadeza*." Mr. Estrada has been urged by various sectors to resign and save the country from further damage. Real earlier urged Mr. Estrada to value *delicadeza* and national patriotism in the wake of the scandals involving his presidency. A stalwart of the local opposition, Real was one of the first governors in Mindanao to call on the President to resign. Senior Board Member Tirsendo Poloyapoy is now the new vice governor. Vera Cruz and Poloyapoy took their oaths of office in the presence of Judge Franklyn Villegas, executive judge of the Regional Trial Court of Zamboanga del Sur. Crecencio Mansura, 47, a cigarette vendor, said he hoped Mr. Estrada would be like Real and resign out of *delicadeza*.

Hernan de la Cruz, PDI Mindanao Bureau

2 renegade rebels killed in gun battle

CALAPAN CITY—Two alleged renegade communist rebels were believed killed here in a 20-minute firefight with a police patrol in a remote village in San Jose, Occidental Mindoro late Sunday.

Investigators said a group of policemen, led by Chief Insp. Enigmo Cabillo and Senior Insp. Alfredo Villapando of the San Jose municipal police station, encountered the group at around 2:30 p.m. in Barangay Batasan, San Jose town.

The police team fired at the armed men, hitting two of them initially. This prompted the rebel group to flee to a forested area in Bulalacao town, some 189 kilometers south of this city.

Investigators said the group was led by a certain Eddie Flores, also known as Ka Silver, a former NPA commander in Southern Mindoro who was expelled last year from the mainstream NPA on the island.

Supt. Winston Ebersole, Occidental Mindoro police deputy director for administration, said the renegades could be behind extortion, kidnappings, robberies and other criminal activities in southern Mindoro.

The group is now operating in the boundary of Oriental and Occidental Mindoro, particularly in the Bulalacao-San Jose area. It has reportedly taken over several cattle ranches in the area and has burned some huts belonging to Mangyans, who were angry with the group.

In Santiago City, the spokesman of the Communist Party of the Philippines in the region, said Army soldiers violated their own unilateral ceasefire when they launched a series of offensives, one of which led to the killing of two civilians in Cagayan Valley.

Salvador del Pueblo said the unilateral ceasefire which the government declared from Dec. 9, 2000 to Jan. 9, 2001, was a "big lie" meant to outwit the rebels.

Maj. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, 5th Infantry Division commander, claimed, however, that the military has been observing the truce and that the rebels had initiated the reported encounters.

Garcia said the rebels have abused the "Christmas giveaway that is (the) ceasefire" by launching attacks against soldiers and policemen. ***Joel Jabal, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau, Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

₱130M more needed for Pampanga irrigation project

ARAYAT, Pampanga—The construction of a Japanese-funded irrigation and flood control project here was ahead of schedule but the cost of its right-of-way (ROW) has increased from P130 million to P300 million, government engineers said.

The almost 150-percent rise in the ROW cost of the Pampanga Delta Development Project (PDDP)-irrigation component, the result of an increase in land valuation, will be assumed by the Philippine government.

Based on its revised 1996 schedule, almost 80 percent of the P3.407-billion project had been completed, according to Reynaldo Mencias, PDDP project manager.

The project, conceptualized in 1975, was originally started in 1992. It was funded by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

Protests by residents and Mt. Pinatubo's eruption in 1991 forced two revisions on the project's schedule.

Jose Garcia, head of a team from the office of the inspectorate general of the Department of Agriculture that was here Monday to assess the project, said that except for the ROW aspect, the project was "on target" and "well managed."

The reservoir, which was 32-km long, 8.6-meter tall and 150-meter wide, would be finished soon, he said.

From Barangay Lacquios here, which lies at the foothills of Mt. Arayat, water from the Pampanga River will be diverted to a 28,805-meter canal linked to 34 other lateral dikes with a total length of 97,171 meters.

Electric-powered, shell-type roller gates with flap, the first of its kind in Southeast Asia, have been installed.

Filipino engineers and Japanese consultants have added a desilting facility to catch volcanic sediments flowing from the Sacobia-Bamban river in Tarlac.

By July this year, Mencias said at least 3,000 of the 10,270 hectares of agricultural land in Arayat, Sta. Ana, Mexico, San Luis, San Simon, Candaba and Apalit towns in Pampanga are set for irrigation.

When fully operational in 2002, the project is expected to help ease flooding because water that was supposed to flow fast naturally from the Pampanga River to the downstream areas of the province would be stored in the dam.

"Expect year-round irrigation," Mencias said.

The six towns produce rice, onions, tomatoes, mungbeans, eggplants, string beans, watermelons, musk melons, green and yellow corn mainly for Metro Manila markets.

Mencias said he expected no delay since the National Irrigation Administration has asked the National Economic and Development Authority to recommend additional funding for the PDDP's ROW cost. ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

INQUIRER Northern Luzon
JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ■ ROLANDO B. FERNANDEZ, Bureau Chief

Test-tube carabaos to come in droves

BY ANSELMO ROQUE
Science City of Muñoz

SCIENTISTS of the Philippine Carabao Center in the Science City of Muñoz in Nueva Ecija have now perfected the protocol for the embryo transfer technology in carabaos, using embryos assembled in the laboratory.

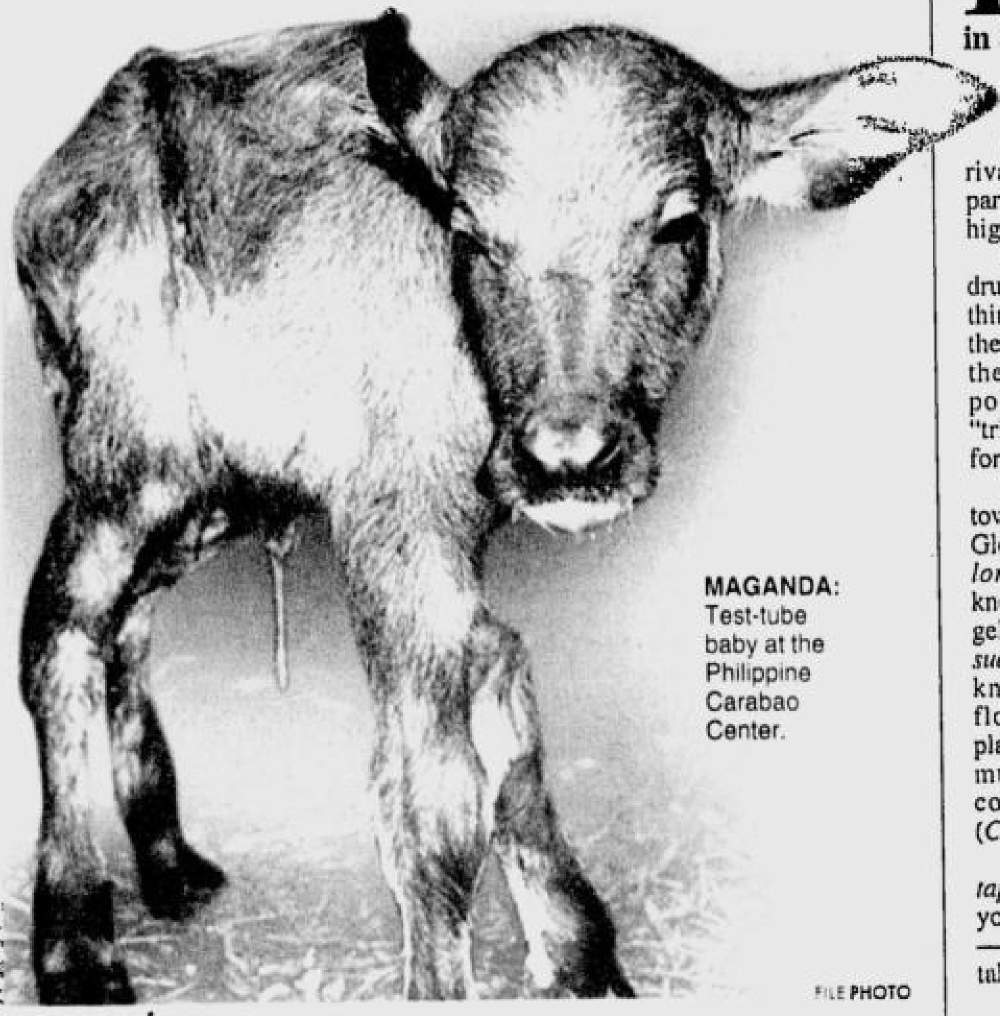
The technology is widely known as the test-tube carabao technology and considered the better alternative to carabao reproduction. It is expected to hasten the production of better quality carabaos.

Dr. Libertado Cruz, PCC executive director, said this reproductive biotechnology has a better rate of success than the commonly used artificial insemination in inducing carabaos to become pregnant.

In artificial insemination, the rate of success is about 30 percent, but in the test-tube carabao technology, it can be as high as 80 percent, he said.

Scientists of the PCC and the Central Luzon State University in Muñoz City started in 1994 the research on the *in vitro* (outside of the body) maturation, fertilization and culture of carabao embryos and embryo transfer technology.

The process involved the collection of oocytes (eggs before maturation) from the ovaries of slaughtered carabaos, fertilizing them in petri dish with the sperm of the male carabao and transferring them later to surrogate female carabaos.



MAGANDA: Test-tube baby at the Philippine Carabao Center.

FILE PHOTO

A big success

The research team, headed by Dr. Marlon Ocampo, scored a big success when the two surrogate carabaos that were given assembled embryos became pregnant and later gave birth.

On Oct. 28, 1996, the first test-tube carabao was born, and the second, 23 days later. They were named "Malakas" and "Maganda."

Cruz said other aspects of the technology, like freezing and storing the embryos in liquid nitrogen tank until the time they would be transferred to the recipient carabaos, were carefully researched on and the procedures perfected.

He said a PCC team was now ready to mass-produce test-tube embryos of carabao.

The technology can be used to produce pure breed of quality carabaos, like the Murrah buffaloes and their crosses with the native carabaos.

The production of the superior breed of carabaos appears to be easily done with this technology than that of crossbreeds, however. This is because there are not enough female native carabaos being slaughtered in the country from which the needed ovaries can be taken.

For the production of thousands of Murrah buffaloes using test-tube technology, Cruz said the PCC team was set to go to India this month to mass-produce the Indian breed.

He said the team was expected to produce at least 32,000 embryos that would be transported to the country and transferred to surrogate natives.

According to Danilda Duran, head of the PCC embryo biotechnology laboratory, India is the best place to mass-produce test-tube embryos of good breed of carabaos.

This is because thousands of Murrah buffaloes are being slaughtered in that country every day, she said. Many of those slaughtered are female, she added.

Durane said the PCC had made arrangements with the management of the slaughterhouse in Allana in Mumbai, India, for this special project. A PCC satellite office in Allana will be set up this month for the mass production of test-tube carabaos.

Duran will head the team that will go to India this month. The other team members are Prudencio Pedro, senior agriculturist; and Rogelio Hufana, science research assistant.

A member of the team will come back to the Philippines every three months to bring home to the PCC the assembled embryos. This arrangement will allow replacement of a team member every three months.

Under their work plan, the members will collect the ovaries of the slaughtered female carabaos and recover in their laboratory the immature oocytes.

These will be subjected to maturation and fertilized with the processed semen of quality bulls in in-vitro fertilization under controlled conditions and environment.

The assembled embryos will undergo ultra rapid cooling by vitrification (a process where embryos are changed into a glasslike substance by heat and fusion) and placed in plastic straws in liquid nitrogen thermos, which have a temperature of minus 180 degrees Fahrenheit.

Pioneering

Once in the country, the test-tube embryos will be transferred to surrogate carabaos in various areas in the country.

This procedure in reproductive biotechnology in carabaos is said to be first of its kind in the world. Pioneering as it is, it may reduce and eventually put to a halt the importation of quality breed of carabaos being used for improving the native breed.

The projected 32,000 embryos to be produced in India constitute only the first phase of the program, it was learned.

The carabao has been an indispensable work animal in the country for centuries. Because of its contribution to the economic life of the people, it has been given many endearing appellations like "beast of burden," "mainstay of Philippine agriculture," and "walking fertilizer factory."

The last refers to the contribution of this animal to the production of organic fertilizer, through its manure.

Despite its big help to the country and people, the carabao suffered abuses and neglect. Among these were indiscriminate butchering of the animal, lack of program for improving its breed, and lack of attention in looking into its health and nutrition.

In 1981, the Philippine government, with the assistance of the United Nations Development Program-Food and Agriculture Organization (UNDP-FAO), started a program called "Strengthening of the Philippine Carabao Research and Development."

The program, among other things, started a crossbreeding project using imported bulls especially Murrah buffaloes that were considered to be genetically superior. The bulls were trained to donate semen for artificial insemination.

The program led to the production of crossbreeds that were bigger and better than native carabaos. It inspired the creation of the PCC whose main intention is to institutionalize the improvement of the breed of the Philippine carabaos and increase their number in the country for draft, meat, milk and hide.

Herbal high in Sagada

BY ALFRED DIZON
Mt. Province

ECSTASY? Not in the tourist town of Sagada in Mt. Province. The "high" that Manila partygoers are getting from their favorite synthetic drug is nothing compared to what hip natives and tourists in Sagada have been experiencing.

Not even shabu, cocaine or any of their derivatives could compare to these "natural highs."

Indigenous herbal drugs have been the "in thing" in Sagada since the early 1970s when the town became a popular haven for "tripping" gypsies and foreign backpackers.

Name it and the town has it: Morning Glory (*Ipomoea tricolor praecox*) locally known *pukingang*, Angel's Trumpet (*Datura suaveolens*) commonly known as Trumpet flower or Trumpet plant, the psychedelic mushrooms and, of course, marijuana (*Cannabis sativa Linn*).

Mix these with *tapuey* (rice wine) and you've got the works—if you are willing to take the risk.

Except for marijuana, these herbal plants cum illegal drug alternatives are free as these abound in the mountains of Sagada.

ANGEL'S TRUMPET: A different kind of flower power.

TOOTS SOBERANO

'Magic grass'

But marijuana, the popular party-popper, is seldom grown in Sagada now. It may have been the "magic grass" of the jazz world and the hippie community, and some adventurous indigenous folk were no exception.

Since the 1970s, it has become a weed of dissent, a symbol of revolt, a turn-on (or cop-out) for young people like the Applais (native Sagada folk) who want to either enrich their experience or escape from it.

But in Sagada, marijuana has been just one among the many "natural highs" used not only by natives but also hippies to escape or enhance their work.

Professionals and vacationers from Metro Manila—lawyers, journalists, rock stars, advertising copywriters, fashion designers, artists and even incognito Hollywood actors and actresses—have gathered at small parties with natives in Sagada and dabbled in using local herbs for their "high."

Ask the drummer of an Australian band why he stayed in the town for more than a month and taught kids how to play musical instruments.

Sagada had also been a favorite hideaway of the legendary Filipino rock group Asin. Filipino artists and painters have become famous and struck it rich abroad after hobnobbing and grooving in the town with European visitors who had the right connections.

Angel's Trumpet

The "high" one gets from these herbal drugs is varied as users have experienced. But for those who want to get "crazy," Morning Glory and Angel's Trumpet are it.

In the early 1980s, three Israelis, after each drinking three glasses of water mixed with Angel's Trumpet, nearly drove nuns out of their wits at the Anglican-run St. Joseph's Inn.

They jumped from their room on the second floor, landed on the ground, raced upstairs back to their room and again jumped from the window.

The alarmed nuns had to ask residents to restrain them.

The tourists spent three days at the nearby St. Theodore's Hospital under the watchful eyes of missionary doctors.

And when they got out, they received a healthy dose of lectures from resident hippies on the recommended dosage of the herbal drugs.

Residents use Angel's Trumpet to cure asthma. Its leaves are boiled and the potion drunk in spoonfuls. But when the dosage exceeds three glasses, they say the "high" is experienced.

Morning Glory has the same effect. It is an indigenous vine found in rocky mountainsides used by natives to tie pine branches they carry home for firewood.

Like Angel's Trumpet, the Morning Glory vines are pulverized and boiled with water. To get the "high," one should drink at least three glasses of the potion, according to those who have tried it.

Morning Glory acts as a sort of an aphrodisiac, users swear. But residents say it was named that way since its flowers literally bloom early in the morning and fold when the sun sets.

A hundred years of Cordillera vegetable salad

BY MAURICE MALANES
Benguet

THE COLD winds bite, like frozen needles pricking the bones. But why did the mountain folk come to Atok, Benguet, and called it their home?

Any day of this balmy season, from noon to late evening, thick fog hugs the environs of Atok's Barangay Paoay (pop: 3,552), some 50 kilometers north of Baguio City.

Trekking along the winding road from Sitio Sayangan along the Halsema Highway to Paoay's plateau (7,500 foot above sea level) is like going up a stairway to a cloud-blanketed heaven.

The hardy Kankanaey and Ibaloi folk came to Atok not just because the place was near heaven. Suited to growing tropical vegetables, the once thickly forested area promised abundance.

Ever since a former soldier of the American colonial government at the turn of the 20th century set foot in Atok, Barangay Paoay through the years has been transformed into what it is today—a salad bowl.

Some migrant Chinese, who were among those the Americans recruited to help build Kennon Road from 1902 to 1911, followed suit and introduced intensive vegetable farming.

Once mere hired hands of vegetable plantation owners, the Kankanaey and Ibaloi folk learned to grow vegetables and turned Paoay and the other six neighboring barangays of Atok (pop: 16,000) into a vegetable district.

The vegetable industry soon spread to the neighboring towns of Buguias and Kibungan (particularly Barangay Madaymen), both in Benguet, and some towns of Mt. Province. Now considered a "vegetable belt," these areas supply 80 percent of the country's tropical vegetables.

Century-old

The Cordillera's multimillion-peso vegetable industry is almost a century old. And in a country, which loves and honors anything American, the upland folk must be historically sentimental toward Paoay as they are toward Camp John Hay and Kennon.

In the early 1900s, a certain Guy Haight came and fell in love with what he saw atop a plateau—grassland surrounded by mossy and pine forests.

A member of the US Army's engineering corps, Haight was among the American soldiers and officials who colonized the Philippines after the Filipinos defeated the Spaniards in 1898.

Contracting lung disease (probably an early stage of tuberculosis) after helping supervise the building of Kennon, Manila's main link to Baguio, Haight was advised by a doctor to look for a place as cold as his Philadelphia hometown.

Unlike other former American soldiers who explored the Cordillera for its fabled gold mines, Haight settled in what is now Paoay and became a farmer. He married an Igorot lass from Suyoc in Mankayan town, also in Benguet, and built a grass-thatched house and log cabins on the grassland, the best part of the dominantly mountain village.

Some photographs of the houses and of Haight's family now hang at the living room of the house of former Atok Mayor John Haight, now 71, a grandson of Haight.

The elder Haight ordered vegetable seeds from his parents in Philadelphia, and, with the help of Igorot laborers, he grew cabbage, turnip, rhubarb, lettuce, sugar beet, carrot, celery, parsley and potato. He also grew oats and rye, whose stalks and leaves were fed to cows, horses, pigs, carabaos and other livestock.

Haight's almost 30-hectare farm and house were an ideal organic farm. The soil was virgin and fertile then. Thus, there was no need for chemical fertilizers. But later, Haight used compost in his farm that consisted of decayed weeds and livestock manure.

Haight's produce was marketed to Baguio. His clients were fellow Americans, many of them colonial officials on vacation at Camp John Hay, and Filipinos who learned to eat cabbages and other newly introduced tropical vegetables.

With no road link to Atok, Haight had to hire porters and had to mobilize his horses to transport on foot the vegetables to Baguio. Each porter had to carry an average of 30 kilos, says Celo Haight-Tan, now 82, whose late father Selo, a.k.a. Toki Lawangen, was recruited by Haight as "tent boy."

Celo, a native of Kapangan, Benguet, was barely 12 years old when he was hired. The boy was rendering labor during the construction of Kennon as payment for community tax. Celo soon assumed the family name of his American master.

Celo and his family also spoke American English. "We came to learn our language only when we went to school in Kabayan (a neighboring town)," recalls Haight-Tan, the fourth of the late Celo's 10 children.

The old Haight died in 1926. But planting tropical vegetables, which he introduced, continued.

Enter the Chinese

After the construction of Kennon in 1911 and of the American military barracks and buildin[illegible] Baguio, which Chinese mig[illegible] helped build, the remaining Chinese laborers saw new opportunities.

They surveyed La Trinidad Valley and other areas in Benguet, which included Paoay and other villages in Atok, and found these areas promising for agriculture.

In Paoay, the Chinese introduced intensive farming and new varieties of cabbage, such as *pechay* and *wombok*, aside from head cabbage, celery, carrot, broccoli, lettuce and potato.

With intensive farming, the Chinese had to use chicken dung mixed with ashes, chemical fertilizers and pesticides, recalls Paoay barangay chair Dewey Tomas, a former child laborer in a Chinese farm in the 1950s.

But the Chinese were also basically organic farmers, according to Baguio-based Dr. Charles Cheng and Katherine Bersamira in their 1997 book "The Ethnic Chinese in the Cordillera: The Untold Story of Pioneers."

The Chinese also introduced composting, recycling of organic matter, crop rotation, using insect predators to control pests, and some irrigation techniques, say Dr. Cheng and Bersamira.

‘Atong kidnap mastermind’

(From page A1)

Singson later told The Associated Press that relatives of at least two kidnap victims had told him they believed Ang was behind the abductions.

Singson said the relatives were afraid of going public because of Ang's relationship with Mr. Estrada.

He said Ang allegedly approached the relatives by offering to negotiate the release of the kidnap victims and handled the ransom money.

Organizational role

Ang See told AP that some relatives believed Ang was more than a go-between and might have played an organizational role in the abductions.

She said the family of one victim, a Chinese-Filipino businessman, paid P39 million in ransom through Ang, who claimed to have advanced P1 million of his own money because the kidnappers demanded P40 million.

ATONG ANG: Not just a gambling whiz? ERIK ARAZAS

Another victim's family paid P25 million.

In both cases, the victims' relatives handed the ransom money to Ang, she said.

Ang is known in cockpits and casinos as a big-time gambler who would bet P1 million on a single cockfight and even more on a single baccarat deal.

He has also been reported to be an operator of masiao, a popular illegal numbers game in the Visayas and Mindanao. The numbers racket is based on the "special llave" event of the jai alai operations.

Pagcor

Still, the government-run Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. last year appointed him consultant of its jai alai operations, a position that earns him and his consultancy firm at least P500,000 a day.

Last December, Singson testified at the Senate impeachment trial that Ang had arranged with jueteng gambling lords the payment of protection money to President Estrada.

Singson, who claimed to have delivered to the President more than P400 million in jueteng payoffs, said he exposed the racket after he had a falling out with Ang over the illegal numbers game.

Ang was appointed by Pagcor as its consultant on Bingo 2-Ball, a legalized version of jueteng, and Singson was reportedly left out of the action.

In his testimony at the impeachment trial, Singson said he and Ang delivered P130 million in tobacco tax kickbacks to the President.

Ang and the President have denied Singson's allegations. *With a report from AP*

Did Atong offer to testify vs Erap?

(From page A1)

over a "jueteng" turf dispute, yesterday said his erstwhile buddy had offered to testify against the President at his Senate trial in exchange for P500 million.

Singson said the deal fell through even after Ang lowered his demand to P50 million.

But Ang, who according to Singson delivered P130 million in tobacco tax kickbacks to the President, said opposition congressmen were the ones who urged him to testify.

Even so, Ang said he never had any intention to take the witness stand against the President.

During the 100th anniversary celebration of the Western Police District, the President said Singson's disclosure no longer surprised him.

"If Ang will testify . . . let him testify all he wants," Mr. Estrada told Palace newsmen at the Quirino Grandstand.

The President, Singson and Ang are key figures in the so-called "Juetengate" scandal, resulting in Mr. Estrada's impeachment. His trial began on Dec. 7.

In an interview with the INQUIRER on Tuesday, Singson said Ang approached one of his aides and two opposition congressmen last month and offered to serve as a prosecution witness.

Singson made the same allegations in a radio interview yesterday.

Singson said one of his aides got word from Ang sometime before Christmas Day that he was willing to testify against Mr. Estrada in exchange for P500 million.

According to the governor, Ang had told his aide that he felt betrayed and feared for his life.

"He said he wanted to testify against Erap because there were orders to kill him. He said he would use the money to fight the President," Singson told the INQUIRER.

"But I didn't buy it," the governor said, adding he suspected "a trap."

Singson said Ang did not approach his aide again.

The governor said he learned that Ang later went to see the two congressmen sometime before New Year's Day to make the same offer.

This time, however, Ang asked for P50 million, Singson said.

He said the two congressmen were skeptical about Ang's motives.

"Clearly, he was fooling us because he was asking for money . . . If he really wanted to testify against the President, he shouldn't be needing money anymore," Singson said.

The governor did not identify who the two congressmen were.

Ang and Defensor

In a separate interview with the INQUIRER, however, Ang said the so-called "Spice Boys" of Congress, particularly Quezon City Rep. Michael Defensor, had been trying to convince him to testify against Mr. Estrada as early as the first week of December.

"But it was never my intention to testify (against the President)," he said.

Defensor told the INQUIRER that talks with Ang "started two to three weeks before Christmas."

The congressman said he, Ang and his lawyer Freddie Villamor also had a long talk during the birthday party of Surigao City Rep. Robert Ace Barber's youngest son Spade at the Hotel Nikko last Dec. 27.

Also present during the party were Misamis Oriental Rep. Oscar Moreno, a House prosecutor, and the other Spice Boys —Malabon-Navotas Rep. Federico Sandoval, Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri, Pangasinan Rep. Hernani Braganza and Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr.

Defensor said Ang only wanted protection for himself after the trial should the President be acquitted.

Defensor also said the talks "never delved on any amount of money in exchange for his testimony."

Despite Ang's assertion that he would remain loyal to Mr. Estrada, Defensor said "Atong is aware that he was used in the past for financial gains and that he would eventually be used again as a fall guy."

No financial gain

According to Defensor, Ang maintained that "he never gained financially" in any of his dealings with the President.

In his testimony at the Senate impeachment trial, Singson said that in August 1998 he and Ang delivered to the President P130 million in tobacco excise taxes representing the share of the Ilocos Sur provincial government.

Singson also testified that Ang had arranged with jueteng operators the President's 3-percent take from their monthly operations.

The governor said he took over the jueteng collections in latter part of 1998 after Ang had a falling out with the President over sugar quota allocations.

Singson said he delivered to the President more than P400 million in jueteng protection money over a 21-month period. *With reports from Armand N. Nocum*

Former solon shows deft handling of Article 3 rap

(From page A1)

at Citibank.

From the wording of the proffer that Moreno made, he gave the impression that the five account holders had "savings, current and time deposits and investments in treasury bills, commercial papers and other instruments with Citibank."

A "proffer of evidence," as explained in an earlier analysis, does not have any probative value. It does not constitute evidence. It's just like any explanation made by a lawyer in the course of the proceedings.

The prosecution lawyer missed the opportunity to present the public with a blockbuster of a revelation because of a lapse in procedure. The documents covering those accounts were not included in the list of documents that Lim was ordered by the court to bring to the impeachment court.

Strict compliance

No matter how Moreno tried to question Lim on those accounts, his efforts were stymied by the defense, whose objections were upheld by Davide, on the ground that Lim had not been previously authorized (by way of a subpoena) to testify on those accounts.

Davide insisted on strict compliance with the lawyers' earlier agreement that all orders from the court to third parties to testify and submit documents should be clear and specific as to the purpose of the testimony and documents they would testify on.

Any question posed outside of the scope of those orders—*subpoena ad testificandum* (or order to testify) and *subpoena duces tecum* (or order to produce certain documents)—will not be permitted.

With Davide standing pat on the enforcement of the agreement, the prosecution was forced to limit its questioning of Lim to the documents pertaining to the P8-million check that Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis Singson claimed he gave to First Lady Dr. Loi Ejercito that found its way to her Citibank account.

By the way

But it was not an entirely lost cause for the prosecution yesterday as far as the Citibank accounts were concerned. In what looked like a "by-the-way" question, Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. somehow saved the day for the prosecution.

He asked Lim about the existence of a bank account under the name of Kevin Garcia. Garcia has been rumored as the account name the President used (a la Jose Velarde) to maintain an account with Citibank that contains a substantial amount of deposit.

When Lim replied that he had not checked on the existence of the Garcia account but promised to do so, Pimentel left it to the prosecution to pick up from where he left off.

That cue gave the prosecution the excuse to bring back Lim to the witness stand. Taking off from Pimentel's earlier query, the prosecution can ask Lim the questions that will open the door to the Garcia account.

It remains to be seen how the prosecution will use that opportunity without getting stumped in the process by timely objections of materiality or relevancy by the defense lawyers.

Article 3

While Lim's direct examination left much to be desired, that of lawyer Ruben Almadro, former head of the Compliance and Surveillance Group of the Philippine Stock Exchange, was smooth and well-coordinated.

Almadro was presented to prove the President's alleged "betrayal of the public trust," or Article 3 of the Articles of Impeachment.

Former Rep. Hernando Perez, who returned to the private practice of law after losing in the 1998 senatorial elections, conducted Almadro's direct examination. Perez used an overhead projector to highlight the finer points of Almadro's testimony on certain documents. An assistant lawyer gave copies of the documents to Almadro as Perez posed the questions.

Except for one objection relating to the competence of Almadro to make stock analyses, the direct examination questions went uninterrupted to the point that they looked orchestrated and rehearsed. There were even instances when Almadro gave his answer even before Perez had finished reading his question.

Course on stock trading

Almadro's testimony came out like a short course on stock trading. Words and phrases that are commonly used in stock market operations, such as insider trading, short swing profit, wash sales and over-the-counter transactions, were explained by Almadro in detail, with accompanying illustrations.

As a result of Almadro's orderly direct examination, the evidence the prosecution wanted to present in support of Article 3 was quickly put into the records and the defense was able to commence its cross-examination.

From the more than 400 pages of documents Almadro submitted as part of his testimony, the point that has direct relation to Article 3 is his statement that he went to see the President, upon instructions of then PSE president Jose Yulo, to explain his group's finding that Dante Tan, a close friend of the President and majority owner of BW Resources Corp., was guilty of stock manipulation and other violations of the securities laws.

Obstruction of justice

According to Almadro, the President expressed dismay about the findings and said that Tan is more the victim of stock manipulation rather than the manipulator.

The prosecution is expected to use Almadro's testimony in relation to its statement in the Articles of Impeachment that the President "obstructed justice because he intervened with the duties of a public servant (referring to former Securities and Exchange Commission Chair Perfecto Yasay Jr.) who was investigating transactions as a quasi judicial officer pursuant to the mandate of the law."

With Almadro, and possibly Jose Yulo, who accompanied him in the meeting with the President, testifying on the basis of personal experience that the President committed an act that partakes of betrayal of the public trust, additional pressure has been put on the President to personally appear and deny the testimony that imputes his direct participation in illegal acts.

Singson claimed he personally handed to the President jueteng collections. Emma Lim made a similar statement. Clarissa Ocampo testified she saw the President sign as Jose Velarde in a P500-million bank account. Now, Almadro says the President intervened on behalf of a private person in connection with questionable stock trading.

Denial by proxy or over video testimony may not be sufficient to a public that has become politicized by the widely televised impeachment trial.

Ombudsman orders probe of First Lady, Jinggoy

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC

OMBUDSMAN Aniano Desierto yesterday said he has ordered the investigation of First Lady Loi Ejercito following reports that she had received an P8-million check from Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis Singson.

"The First Lady is already included in the list of those who are now under investigation in connection with the 'jueteng' scandal," said Desierto, who stressed that the existence of the check was "relevant" to the Ombudsman's investigation.

Desierto announced the formal inquiry into the First Lady's possible criminal liability even after the latter had expressed willingness to testify before the Senate impeachment court to clear her name.

Desierto also said that the Office of the Ombudsman was investigating presidential son Jinggoy Estrada along with several other people implicated by Singson in the jueteng scandal.

"Except for President Estrada, who is an impeachable official, the Office of the Ombudsman will spare no one in its ongoing investigation aimed at determining the liability of all those implicated in the jueteng scandal," he said.

Desierto said the high-level panel he created to investigate the scandal was also in the process of determining additional people who should be prosecuted. He said even Delia Rajas, Eleuterio Tan and Alma Alfaro have been placed under investigation for withdrawing P130 million from Landbank.

Singson had claimed that the P130 million was part of the P200 million tobacco excise taxes, which allegedly ended up in President Estrada's pockets.

Last week, the prosecution panel claimed before the impeachment court that the P8-million check was issued by Singson to Mr. Estrada through the President's personal auditor. For unknown reasons, the check ended up in the bank account of the First Lady.

Earlier, three lawyers' groups represented by lawyer Romeo T. Capulong of the Organization of United Solicitors for Estrada's Resignation (Ouster), lawyer Leonard De Vera of the Caucus of Lawyer for Estrada's Abrupt Resignation (Clear) and lawyer Dennis B. Funa of the Concerned Lawyers for Moral and Effective Leadership (Clamor) pressed for the administrative and criminal prosecution of the First Lady, along with the President and several others.

In the complaint, Capulong, De Vera and Funa said President Estrada, in connivance with the First Lady and presidential son Jinggoy Estrada, allegedly diverted and received the P130 million out of the P200 million allocated to the province of Ilocos Sur as its share of the tobacco excise taxes.

Desierto also said he is mulling over the grant of immunity to prosecution witness Emma Lim and other witnesses to shield them from any criminal prosecution arising from the "Juetengate."

"But I can't say at this point if we could grant immunity to Emma Lim," he said.

Desierto said Lim could be implicated in the scandal since she herself admitted that she had delivered P5 million jueteng money to Malacañang. "The high-level panel is still determining the probability of granting immunity to Ms Lim."

Desierto maintained that only the Ombudsman at this point could grant immunity to anyone implicated in the scandal.

"It is still unclear whether the impeachment court has the power to grant immunity. Also, there's no case filed in court so the latter could not approve any application for inclusion to the government's Witness Protection Program," he explained.

When asked about the status of Singson's application for immunity, Desierto said the latter had not forwarded a formal communication to him regarding the matter. "We have only received feelers to that effect," he said.

Prosecution bares harassment of its witness ‘Nonoy’ Yulo

BY MARTIN F. MARFIL

A MEMBER of the House prosecution team requested that bodyguards be provided to Jose Luis "Nonoy" U. Yulo, a former chair of the Philippine Stock Exchange, because he had been subjected to harassment.

Yulo is a prosecution witness on allegations that President Estrada intervened in favor of Dante Tan in connection with the BW Resources scam.

Prosecutor Raul Gonzales said the harassment occurred yesterday morning in two separate places—the Alabang supermarket and Yulo's building on Shaw Boulevard.

In a letter addressed to team manager Quezon City Rep. Feliciano "Sonny" Belmonte, Gonzales said that Yulo's driver and maid were approached by "unknown individuals" who told the two that they knew that the vehicle they were using was owned by Yulo.

The second incident, Gonzales said, occurred the same morning when four policemen entered the Yulo building and told the occupants to vacate it "on the pretext that there was a bomb threat."

"We believe that these incidents are actually meant to harass and frighten the said witness. In view thereof, it is hereby requested that (a) security detail be given to Mr. Yulo and his family," Gonzales said.

Yulo was one of two former PSE executives who had been lined up as witnesses for the third Article of Impeachment, the charge of betrayal of public trust, against the President.

The other witnesses were identified as Ruben Almadro, the former vice president of the PSE and head of its compliance and surveillance group or CSG, and Maryanne Corpuz.

The three, according to court documents, would testify that the President had communicated with the three prior to the release of the PSE investigation report on the BW scandal.

Because of this, the prosecution had the court to issue subpoenas for the three and to compel them to produce documents, including an investigation report into the scandal, pertaining to the issue.

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

REVERSAL of fortunes for the Fortun brothers, Raymond and Sigfrid.

Fortun brothers may run out of luck for Delia stunt

(From page A1)

the trial resumed yesterday afternoon.

"Of course, they will be given a chance to explain their act officially," he said.

Drilon said he was looking into "a possible conspiracy" among lawyers Sigfrid and Raymond Fortun, Alfredo Villamor, lawyer of the President's friend Charlie "Atong" Ang, and four others including Delia Rajas to subject the impeachment court to "a futile and pointless exercise."

But he said he needed a day to read the transcripts of the trial last Monday to validate his and other senator-judges' complaints that Sigfrid Fortun played a dirty trick on them by asking Landbank cashier Maria Caridad Rodenas to go around the gallery and look for Rajas.

As it turned out, the Rajas whom Rodenas was looking for was not the one who appeared before her on Aug. 27 and 28, 1998, in connection with the opening of an account and withdrawal of P50 million.

The Rajas produced by the defense team on the angry demand of the senator-judges turned out to be a 35-year-old widow who has been employed as a cook in the house of Ang's mother Catalina for 10 years.

It was Raymond Fortun, Sigfrid's younger brother, who had talked to this Rajas and arranged for her unannounced appearance at the trial.

Villamor, Vivero

Drilon said he might also include in his motion for contempt Ang's lawyer Villamor and alleged faith healer Anthony Vivero.

Villamor stood as lawyer for Belen Piamonte and Ma. Asuncion C. Vivero, who had escorted Rajas to the impeachment court, when they were later questioned in the office of Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr.

During the questioning which he attended, Drilon said Villamor also stood as Ang's lawyer when the former state gambling consultant appeared at the hearings of the Senate blue ribbon committee on the "Juetengate" scandal.

According to Drilon, Vivero claimed to be a faith healer known to the Ang family and to having had Rajas as a patient.

"The lawyer of Atong Ang contacted the so-called faith healer, who arranged for Delia Rajas to come to the Senate," Drilon said.

He noted inconsistencies in the statements of the parties involved.

"Mr. Vivero said he did not know Ms Rajas," Drilon said. "But later he stated that he had healed her a couple of times. He tried to wiggle out of it by saying that he did not know her name even if he had healed her on some occasions."

Drilon appeared hesitant to cite the two women for contempt.

"Our initial impression is that these two women were merely asked to accompany Delia Rajas, and that this was a scheme clearly adopted by the lawyers," he said.

Reprimand

In Davao City, a group of lawyers urged the impeachment court to reprimand Sigfrid Fortun and other members of the defense panel for misleading the court and the public.

Lawyer Carlos Isagani Zarate, co-convenor of Dismiss Erap Now, said Fortun may have violated the rules of ethics.

"As an officer of the court, you have to be candid and observe the candor required by the court. What happened was that the defense's unconventional tactic threw the court into a quandary," Zarate said, adding:

"It was so *garapal* (crude). He even did the trick on nationwide television."

Zarate said Fortun's tactic appeared to have backfired as it only strengthened public suspicion that there was indeed a conspiracy to protect the President in connection with the P130 million allegedly given to him out of the tobacco excise tax. *With a report from Jowel F. Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Shahani appeals to athletes

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

ATHLETES need action not words to alleviate their pitiful living conditions.

"You can't eat four gold medals," the fabled Jesse Owens once said when people derided him for racing against a horse for $2,000. "But what was I supposed to do?" added Owens who ended without much money despite winning the 100 and 200 meters, the long jump and the 4 x 100m relay in the 1936 Berlin Olympic Games.

I brought up the Jesse Owens story to illustrate that a similar fate is already happening to many Filipino athletes who won medals in past international events. These local sports greats have long been promised cash incentives by Congress, but until now they still have to wait and worry as to when this cash bonanza would be handed out to them.

What's taking Congress so long to pass the sports benefits and incentives act? Rep. Ranjit Shahani tells us why.

In an open letter to national athletes, the youthful legislator from Pangasinan appealed for more patience and understanding. Shahani said.

"Our inability to pass this measure before the holidays should not be taken against us. Sen. Robert Jaworski and Representatives Gilberto Duavit, Ariel Zartiga and myself and our respective staffs have worked overtime for two straight nights, Dec. 20 and 21.

"But due to time constraints, we were not able to approve the bill. Another factor was due to fatigue, especially to Senator Jaworski and his staff. We have to remember that the Senate is now an impeachment court. Moreover, starting at 8 a.m. our esteemed senators attend to all their legislative agenda. While our bicameral conference committee was set at 7 p.m. and lasted around 11 p.m."

Shahani also said they still have to clarify certain matters regarding an important provision of the landmark measure, which is the funding provision. "And because of its importance," Shahani said, "we wanted to clarify all questions relating to it before we approve and submit it to the President for signing."

The Pangasinan solon explained that Congress remains committed to the welfare of Philippine sports, adding that this matter of cash incentives dates back to the last 10th Congress when Onyok Velasco won a silver medal in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. Unfortunately, the bill's proponents were not able to approve it before they adjourned.

"Thus," Shahani stressed, "I would like to assure you, our dear athletes, that this measure would be passed before Congress adjourns for the election. I know that this measure means so much to you. So I hope that you would bear with us. *Kaunting panahon na lamang at ang pangakong napako noon ay maisasakatuparan na ngayon.*"

It's unfair to blame POC, says Dayrit

By June Navarro

PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee chief Celso Dayrit yesterday chided ranking weightlifting and cycling officials for using the POC as a scapegoat to exonerate themselves from all the troubles hounding their association.

"It's grossly unfair to blame the POC with all of their troubles. They are using the POC decision to withhold support as an excuse," said Dayrit. "If they could settle their problems among themselves, the POC has no business of stepping in."

Dayrit was referring to cycling head Joaquin Preysler and weightlifting president Rodones Sicat, who branded the POC, particularly Dayrit, as vindictive after both failed to support the newly elected POC president in the recent POC elections.

The POC executive board decided to suspend its support Friday to the Philippine Weightlifting Association and the Philippine Amateur Cycling Association until after its officials settle their differences.

Sicat said POC should not interfere with the affairs of their association since they have yet to settle the problem among themselves, while Preysler claimed the Paca has taken steps to put to rest the leadership struggle besieging their association.

"But it has already dragged for a month already. Though the national sports associations exercise full autonomy, they could not get their act together, the reason why the POC took the liberty of stepping in," said Dayrit.

In that case, he said the POC executive board took cognizance of the issues confronting both associations to safeguard the welfare of athletes bound for the Southeast Asian Games in Kuala Lumpur this year.

In another development, SEA Games chief of mission Freddie Jalasco welcomed the statement of BAP chair Gonzalo Puyat, who said Monday that he has yet to accept the BAP presidency.

PSC bars NCR athletes

ATHLETES from the National Capital Region Athletic Association yesterday were barred from entering their respective playing venues after league officials failed to settle their debt to the Philippine Sports Commission.

Cagebelles as well as volleyball squads playing for their respective schools failed to hold their scheduled semifinal games scheduled at 8 a.m. yesterday after PSC security cordoned off the Rizal Memorial Coliseum basketball court and the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

The restriction order came from PSC operation chief Rufino Geronimo, who claimed PSC commissioner Richie Garcia instructed him to enforce the order.

NCRAA President Teddy Talens, along with NCRAA treasurer Josefina Espino, sought Geronimo's reconsideration but was told to pay at least P200,000 on rent and operational expenses first before the PSC allows the games to resume in the two venues.

June Navarro

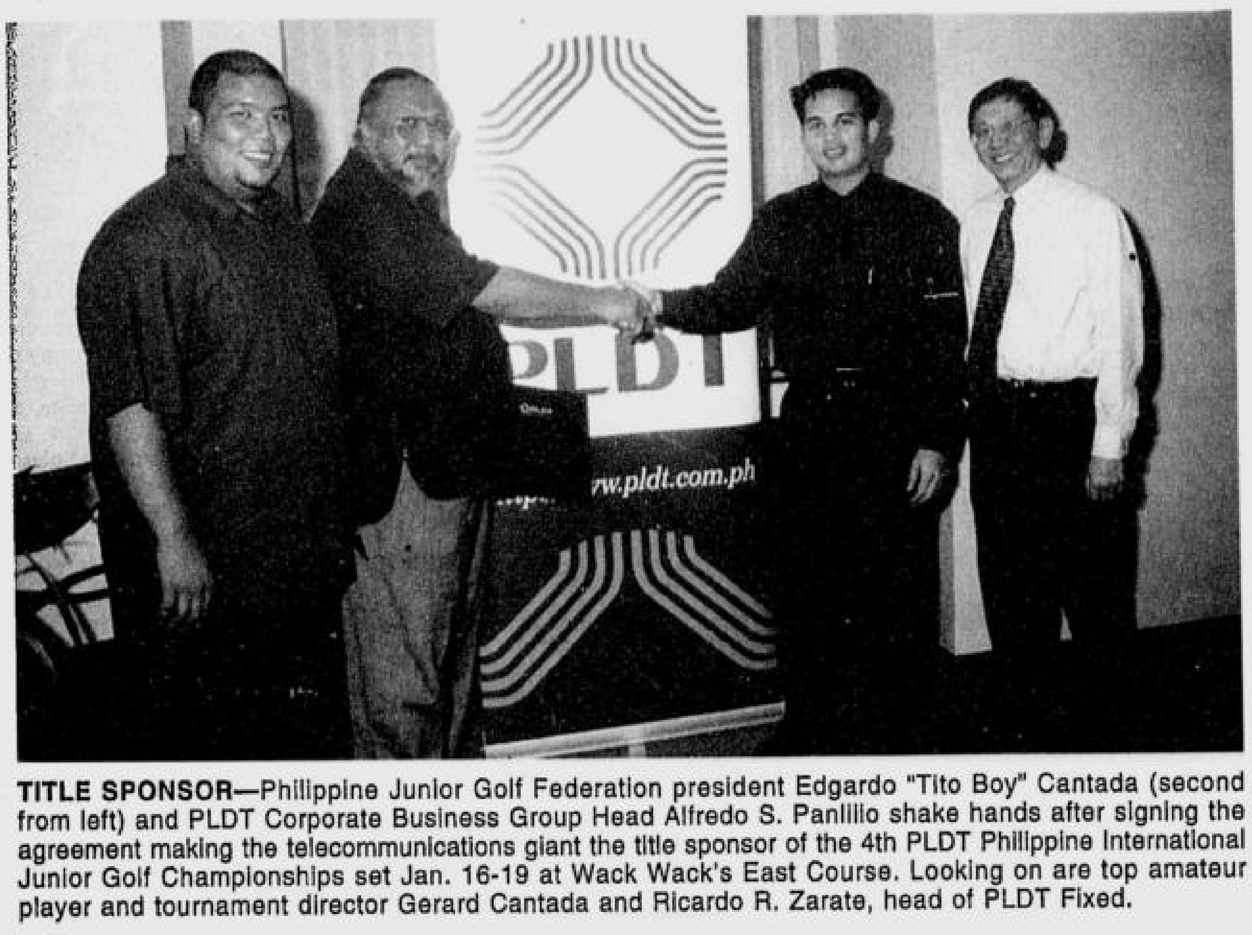
Garcia rules Class A

RAFFY Garcia fired a net 74 or 34 points based on the Stableford (PAL Points) System to capture the Class A title in the Chairman's Cup of the Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club recently in Carmona, Cavite.

Garcia, a scratch-handicapper, won over Minieng Maravilla and Kwang Soo Kim who both made 33 points. Maravilla, however, was declared first runner-up by virtue of a lower handicap.

In Class B, Domingo Juan's 39 was enough to beat Manila Southwoods chair Robert John L. Sobrepeña, who played impressively to finish with 37. Second runner-up honor went to Rodolfo Flordeliza with his 36.

Jesus Avecilla paced Class C with 48 points. Leandro Rosero was second with 47 and Bong Tuason was third with 45.



TITLE SPONSOR—Philippine Junior Golf Federation president Edgardo "Tito Boy" Cantada (second from left) and PLDT Corporate Business Group Head Alfredo S. Panlilio shake hands after signing the agreement making the telecommunications giant the title sponsor of the 4th PLDT Philippine International Junior Golf Championships set Jan. 16-19 at Wack Wack's East Course. Looking on are top amateur player and tournament director Gerard Cantada and Ricardo R. Zarate, head of PLDT Fixed.

Welcoat tames Hapee, 57-52

By Dennis Eroa

ENFORCER Eugene Tan triggered Welcoat's fiery finish with a daredevil drive as the Paintmasters subdued hard-fighting Hapee Sparklers, 57-52, at the start of the PBL Challenge Cup semifinals at the Makati Coliseum.

With six seconds left in Welcoat's shotclock, Tan eluded his defender before mocking Hapee's defensive wall for a left-handed layup which gave Welcoat a 51-50 lead, 49 seconds left.

Earlier, the Hapee gallery erupted in delight as Francis Mercado converted a difficult shot off the outstretched hands of Welcoat pivotman Yancy de Ocampo, 50-49.

The win stretched the Paintmasters' winning streak to eight after stumbling in their first three games. Only the 8-2 mark of rival Shark Energy Drink is better.

Hapee dropped to 5-6 and needs to sweep its last four games in order to have a chance of making the best-of-seven finals.

After Nino Gelig gave Hapee a 43-42 third quarter lead, Welcoat buckled down to work with a solid defense.

Ren Ren Ritualo shadowed Cyrus Baguio no end, while De Ocampo, Tan, Anton Villoria forced their foes to take poor shots.

Meanwhile, Blu Sun Power rookie power forward Marlon Legaspi continued to lead the MVP statistical race but it was the rapid improvement of Ritualo which caught the observers' eyes.

The La Salle standout piled up a total of 304 points. Three Shark standouts—Chester Tolomia (287), Roger Yap (276) and Michael Robinson (272)—completed the first five.

Scores:

SKYLAND 90—Cocjin 20, Sierra 18, Grijaldo 16, Tadeo 12, Alberto 9, Serrano 7, Cruz 6, Santos 2, Bonifacio 0.

MERCURY FREIGHT 71—Magpayo 15, Salvacion 12, Diloy 8, Coching 8, Salvador 6, Capati 6, Mendoza 5, Cruz 4, Castro 3, Perlas 2, Tolentino 2, Magsumbol 0.

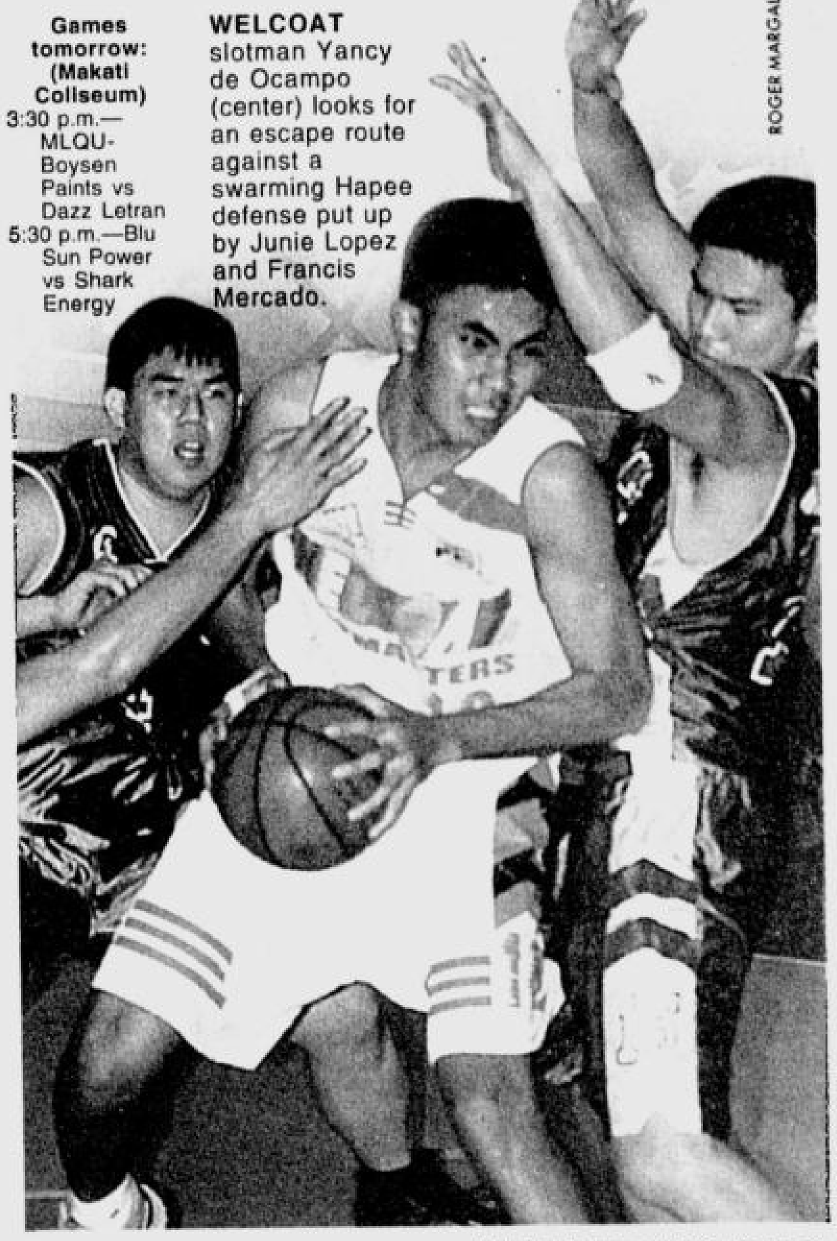
Quarterscores: 22-12, 44-29, 70-47, 90-71

WELCOAT 57—De Ocampo 13, Tan 11, Ritualo 10, Villoria 9, Patrimonio 5, Cruz 4, Zamora 2, Manalo 2, Pamintuan 1, Orfrecio 0, Suba 0.

HAPEE 52—Mercado 13, Baguio 12, Gelig 6, Espintu 6, Norrdell 5, Saquilayan 4, Lopez 2, Bajar 2, Rivera 0, Dy 0, Sison 0.

Quarterscores: 19-14, 32-30, 42-43, 57-52.

Games tomorrow: (Makati Coliseum)
3:30 p.m.—MLQU-Boysen Paints vs Dazz Letran
5:30 p.m.—Blu Sun Power vs Shark Energy



WELCOAT slotman Yancy de Ocampo (center) looks for an escape route against a swarming Hapee defense put up by Junie Lopez and Francis Mercado.

ROGER MARGALLO

RP five eyeing 4 int'l tilts

By Roy Luarca

THE PHILIPPINE men's basketball team being formed will see action in at least four international tournaments this year.

National coach Boyzie Zamar said the team, to be composed mainly of Metropolitan Basketball Association stalwarts, is slated to compete in the 4th Southeast Asia Basketball Association men's championship from March 9-15 in Manila.

The SEABA tilt will serve as qualifying to the 21st Asian Basketball Confederation championship set [illegible] week of July in Bangkok.

Also lined up for the Nationals [illegible] the 24th Jones Cup in Taipei from July 18-26 and the Southeast Asian Games crown in Kuala Lumpur Sept. [illegible]

Zamar, however, is hoping that [illegible] BAP will grant his request for one more international meet before the Nat[illegible] defend their SEAG title.

Elated by the players' turnout [illegible] tryouts he's conducting with [illegible] coach Johnny Tam at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum, Zamar said he'[illegible] to announce the team's compo[illegible] Monday.

Manila's Romel Adducul [illegible] named skipper of the team, [illegible] likely to be composed [illegible] six amateurs.

Pitino resigns

BOSTON—Rick Pi[illegible] coach and presider[illegible] the Celtics on Monday [illegible] the NBA's most suc[illegible] its former glory. H[illegible] O'Brien, was named interim head [illegible]

The Celtics confirmed the [illegible] Monday. O'Brien started his [illegible] by leading practice on Sunda[illegible] Pitino said he was taking the [illegible] mull his options

NBA RESULTS

Portland 98, Boston 90; [illegible] 92, New Jersey 90; Miami 88, [illegible] State 78; Dallas 104 [illegible] Sacramento 100, Min[illegible] diana 85, LA Clippers 82.

RP Ladies Open fires off today

THE NEW golfing season blasts off with the staging of the PLDT-Philippine Ladies Open starting today at the east course of the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club.

Length will be a big plus when the field of 90 players from eight countries take the challenge of the fabled course which should play a lot longer than its actual distance due to its soft fairways.

Aileen Rose Yao, the former world jungolf champion heading the entry roster, hopes to bounce back from last year's runner-up finish and finally capture her first-ever Open crown.

She lost last year to Sri Lankan Thinkrachini Selvarinam who has decided not to defend the crown she won in runaway fashion at the Manila Golf Club.

More than the other local players seeing action, Yao should be worried of the two Taiwanese aces seeing action, Hung Cin-hael and Shin Huei-jun. Both Hung and Shin are among the best back home and are touted to strongly contend for the champion's trophy of the event conducted by the Women's Golf Association of the Philippines.

Carmelette Villaroman-Calimag is another potential winner while veterans Niko Ruby Chico-Walker, Lina de Guzman, Lucy Landicho and Heidi Cha should also crowd the favorites for the crown.

Aside from Taiwan and host Philippines, the other participants in the three-day tourney are coming from Australia, Hong Kong, England, Korea, Macau, United States and New Zealand.

This year's Ladies Open is also supported by the Philippine Sports Commission, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Dunkin Donuts, Philhealth (Calciumade), Alexis, Nic[illegible] Bayer, Phil. Duplicators and [illegible]

The first round will be used [illegible] sification purposes with the [illegible] formers of the starting field to play in the championship division in the second round and the rest sharing the top awards in the two other divisions.

NGAP president Rod Feliciano, Philippine Sports Commissioner R[illegible] Garcia, WGAP president Gina Tuason and former Mayor Ben Abalos, president of Wack Wack, hit the ceremonial balls yesterday.

Cinnabon, Shell support Delasin golf at Riviera

Toyota's Echo Verso hole-in-one prize

DOROTHY Joy Delasin, with the firm backing of Cinnabon Rolls and Shell, will play a round of golf with her friends and supporters at Riviera's Langer in Silang, Cavite.

The tournament is on Jan. 17, a day before Delasin receives her Athlete of the Year award from the Philippine Sportswriters Association at the Holiday Inn.

The 20-year-old Delasin, the 2000 Rookie of the Year awardee of the US LPGA, joins members of the Maddogan Golf Club in an 18-hole affair dubbed "A Day With Delasin Part 2" on Jan. 17.

Toyota, through Raymond Rodriguez of the Toyota Motor Philippines Inc., is staking an Echo Verso as a hole-in-one prize on the four par-3s of Langer.

The first 60 applicants to the tournament, paying P2,500 each as tournament fee, will be accommodated. Participants are entitled to free breakfast, *merienda* and lunch and are qualified to win the Echo Verso. Call NGAP at 5256987 for details.

Cinnabon Rolls and Shell bought two business class tickets for Dorothy and her father, Sonny, and will also shoulder expenses for a 5-star hotel accommodation and transportation during the duo's four-day stay in Manila.

Mizuno, Citgo and Solahart will host the tournament in cooperation with Riviera Golf & Country Club through its president, Commodore Danny Pizarro, and GM John Blanch.

The National Golf Association of the Philippines will supervise the tournament, with NGAP president Rod Feliciano leading the group to hit the ceremonial tee shot.

The tournament's first edition was held last year at Wack Wack, with Delasin receiving financial support from corporations and individuals in her debut at the US LPGA.

President Estrada gave her P500,000 through the Philippine Sports Commission.

DELASIN

Among those invited to the event designed to pay tribute to Delasin's spectacular golf feats last year in America are Chair Butch Tuason of the Philippine Sports Commission, Olympic boss Cito Dayrit and PSC Commissioners Richie Garcia and Weena Lim.

Report card

WHAT CAN I SAY

Bebo Quiros

P4.6 billion in sales. More than P830 million in direct revenue contribution to the government. Close to 12% growth in bad times. Those figures pretty much describe the healthy state of horse racing in the country today. Horse racing is a multi-sector industry composed of horse owners, horse breeders, jockey, trainer, and groom associations, as well as race track operators, working together under the supervision of the Philippine Racing Commission under the stewardship of Chairman Benedicto K. Katigbak.

From the performance report submitted to the racing public on Millenium Open Championship Day, 24 December 2000, we would like to highlight the significant achievements of the Philracom for the rest of the world to know, as follows:

"The following programs of action have been introduced, revised/reformed and/or implemented by the Philracom in response to the popular clamor of the various racing sectors and the betting public.

1. Amendment to the rules governing the implementation of the Drug Test Program on horses by allowing the shift from blood testing to urine testing on a conditional basis, subject to re-evaluation and consistent with the objective of pursuing a system that conforms to international standards.

2. Effectively and efficiently facilitating the registration of 480 horse owners, 160 horse trainers, 36 assistant trainers, 151 professional jockeys, 21 apprentice jockeys, 115 jockey's helpers, 610 grooms, 28 starting gate helpers, 5 racing associations, 2 racing clubs, 81 officials and 2,086 horses for the year.

3. Approval of the proposed revisions in the handicapping of maiden horses with the in end view of implementing a more rational system of equitably classifying horses and effecting more balance races.

4. Approval of the proposed weekly racing calendar with the end in view of encouraging the clubs to be more innovative and aggressive in promoting and marketing their races.

5. Accomplishing the approval of the year 2000 stakes program and the allotment of 15.9-million Pesos in prizes and breeder's purse.

6. Sponsorship of the "Angat Pinoy Summer Racing Festival" pursuant to the Medium Term Development Plan of President Joseph Ejercito Estrada.

7. Allocation of additional incentive prizes to both operational race clubs in order to ensure the holding of more quality races.

8. Conduct of regular consultative meetings with the various sectors with the objective of finding common solutions to problems and furthering the overall improvement of the whole industry.

9. Creating positive inroads in the proposal to integrate the function of the National Stud Farm with that of the Philracom to reflect the symbiotic relationship between breeding and racing.

Shahani appeals to athletes

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

ATHLETES need action not words to alleviate their pitiful living conditions.

"You can't eat four gold medals," the fabled Jesse Owens once said when people derided him for racing against a horse for $2,000. "But what was I supposed to do?" added Owens who ended without much money despite winning the 100 and 200 meters, the long jump and the 4 x 100m relay in the 1936 Berlin Olympic Games.

I brought up the Jesse Owens story to illustrate that a similar fate is already happening to many Filipino athletes who won medals in past international events. These local sports greats have long been promised cash incentives by Congress, but until now they still have to wait and worry as to when this cash bonanza would be handed out to them.

What's taking Congress so long to pass the sports benefits and incentives act? Rep. Ranjit Shahani tells us why.

In an open letter to national athletes, the youthful legislator from Pangasinan appealed for more patience and understanding. Shahani said.

"Our inability to pass this measure before the holidays should not be taken against us. Sen. Robert Jaworski and Representatives Gilberto Duavit, Ariel Zartiga and myself and our respective staffs have worked overtime for two straight nights, Dec. 20 and 21.

"But due to time constraints, we were not able to approve the bill. Another factor was due to fatigue, especially to Senator Jaworski and his staff. We have to remember that the Senate is now an impeachment court. Moreover, starting at 8 a.m. our esteemed senators attend to all their legislative agenda. While our bicameral conference committee was set at 7 p.m. and lasted around 11 p.m."

Shahani also said they still have to clarify certain matters regarding an important provision of the landmark measure, which is the funding provision. "And because of its importance," Shahani said, "we wanted to clarify all questions relating to it before we approve and submit it to the President for signing."

The Pangasinan solon explained that Congress remains committed to the welfare of Philippine sports, adding that this matter of cash incentives dates back to the last 10th Congress when Onyok Velasco won a silver medal in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. Unfortunately, the bill's proponents were not able to approve it before they adjourned.

"Thus," Shahani stressed, "I would like to assure you, our dear athletes, that this measure would be passed before Congress adjourns for the election. I know that this measure means so much to you. So I hope that you would bear with us. *Kaunting panahon na lamang at ang pangakong napako noon ay maisasakatuparan na ngayon.*"

Welcoat tames Hapee, 57-52

By Dennis Eroa

ENFORCER Eugene Tan triggered Welcoat's fiery finish with a daredevil drive as the Paintmasters subdued hard-fighting Hapee Sparklers, 57-52, at the start of the PBL Challenge Cup semifinals at the Makati Coliseum.

With six seconds left in Welcoat's shotclock, Tan eluded his defender before mocking Hapee's defensive wall for a left-handed layup which gave Welcoat a 51-50 lead, 49 seconds left.

Earlier, the Hapee gallery erupted in delight as Francis Mercado converted a difficult shot off the outstretched hands of Welcoat pivotman Yancy de Ocampo, 50-49.

The win stretched the Paintmasters' winning streak to eight after stumbling in their first three games. Only the 8-2 mark of rival Shark Energy Drink is better.

Hapee dropped to 5-6 and needs to sweep its last four games in order to have a chance of making the best-of-seven finals.

After Nino Gelig gave Hapee a 43-42 third quarter lead, Welcoat buckled down to work with a solid defense.

Ren Ren Ritualo shadowed Cyrus Baguio no end, while De Ocampo, Tan, Anton Villoria forced their foes to take poor shots.

Meanwhile, Blu Sun Power rookie power forward Marlon Legaspi continued to lead the MVP statistical race but it was the rapid improvement of Ritualo which caught the observers' eyes.

The La Salle standout piled up a total of 304 points. Three Shark standouts—Chester Tolomia (287), Roger Yap (276) and Michael Robinson (272)—completed the first five.

Scores:

SKYLAND 90—Cocjin 20, Sierra 18, Grijaldo 16, Tadeo 12, Alberto 9, Serrano 7, Cruz 6, Santos 2, Bonifacio 0.

MERCURY FREIGHT 71—Magpayo 15, Salvacion 12, Diloy 8, Coching 8, Salvador 6, Capati 6, Mendoza 5, Cruz 4, Castro 3, Perlas 2, Tolentino 2, Magsumbol 0.

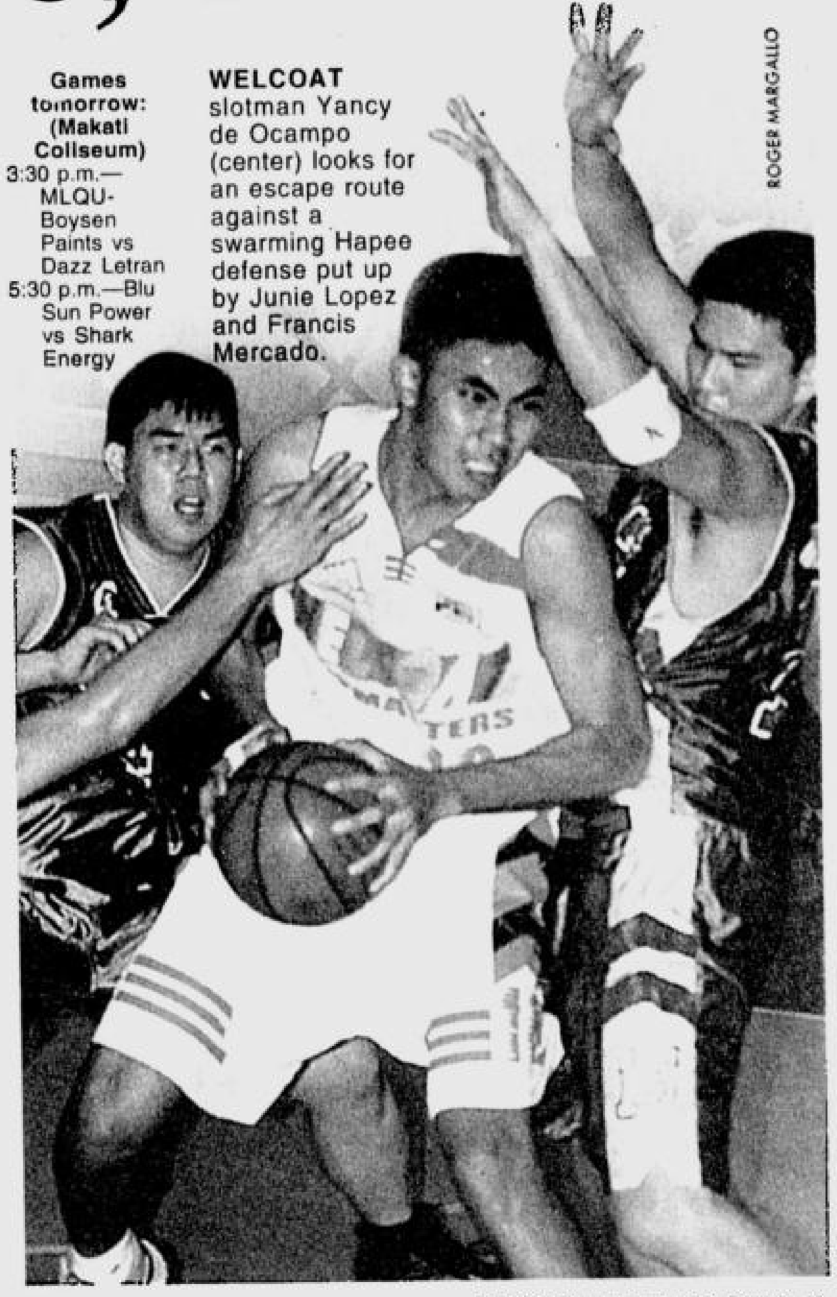
Quarterscores: 22-12, 44-29, 70-47, 90-71

WELCOAT 57—De Ocampo 13, Tan 11, Ritualo 10, Villoria 9, Patrimonio 5, Cruz 4, Zamora 2, Manalo 2, Pamintuan 1, Orfrecio 0, Suba 0.

HAPEE 52—Mercado 13, Baguio 12, Gelig 6, Espintu 6, Norrdell 5, Saquilayan 4, Lopez 2, Bajar 2, Rivera 0, Dy 0, Sison 0.

Quarterscores: 19-14, 32-30, 42-43, 57-52.

Games tomorrow: (Makati Coliseum)
3:30 p.m.—MLQU-Boysen Paints vs Dazz Letran
5:30 p.m.—Blu Sun Power vs Shark Energy



WELCOAT slotman Yancy de Ocampo (center) looks for an escape route against a swarming Hapee defense put up by Junie Lopez and Francis Mercado.

ROGER MARGALLO

RP five eyeing 4 int'l tilts

By Roy Luarca

THE PHILIPPINE men's basketball team being formed will see action in at least four international tournaments this year.

National coach Boyzie Zamar said the team, to be composed mainly of Metropolitan Basketball Association stalwarts, is slated to compete in the 4th Southeast Asia Basketball Association men's championship from March 9-15 in Manila.

The SEABA tilt will serve as qualifying to the 21st Asian Basketball Confederation championship set [illegible] of July in Bangkok.

Also lined up for the Nationals [illegible] the 24th Jones Cup in Taipei from Jul 18-26 and the Southeast Asian Games crown in Kuala Lumpur Sept. [illegible]

Zamar, however, is hoping that BAP will grant his request for [illegible] international meet before the Nat[illegible] defend their SEAG title.

Elated by the players' turnout [illegible] tryouts he's conducting with [illegible] coach Johnny Tam at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum, Zamar said he's [illegible] to announce the team's compo[illegible] Monday.

Manila's Romel Adducul [illegible] named skipper of the team, [illegible] likely to be composed [illegible] 12 [illegible] six amateurs.

Pitino resigns

BOSTON—Rick Pi[illegible] coach and presider[illegible] the Celtics on Monday [illegible] the NBA's most suc[illegible] its former glory. H[illegible] O'Brien, was named interim head.

The Celtics confirmed the [illegible] Monday. O'Brien started his [illegible] by leading practice on Sunda[illegible] Pitino said he was taking the [illegible] mull his options.

NBA RESULTS

Portland 98, Boston 90; [illegible] 92, New Jersey 90; Miami 88 [illegible] State 78; Dallas 104 [illegible] Sacramento 100, Min[illegible] diana 85, LA Clippers 82.

It's unfair to blame POC, says Dayrit

By June Navarro

PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee chief Celso Dayrit yesterday chided ranking weightlifting and cycling officials for using the POC as a scapegoat to exonerate themselves from all the troubles hounding their association.

"It's grossly unfair to blame the POC with all of their troubles. They are using the POC decision to withhold support as an excuse," said Dayrit. "If they could settle their problems among themselves, the POC has no business of stepping in."

Dayrit was referring to cycling head Joaquin Preysler and weightlifting president Rodones Sicat, who branded the POC, particularly Dayrit, as vindictive after both failed to support the newly elected POC president in the recent POC elections.

The POC executive board decided to suspend its support Friday to the Philippine Weightlifting Association and the Philippine Amateur Cycling Association until after its officials settle their differences.

Sicat said POC should not interfere with the affairs of their association since they have yet to settle the problem among themselves, while Preysler claimed the Paca has taken steps to put to rest the leadership struggle besieging their association.

"But it has already dragged for a month already. Though the national sports associations exercise full autonomy, they could not get their act together, the reason why the POC took the liberty of stepping in," said Dayrit.

In that case, he said the POC executive board took cognizance of the issues confronting both associations to safeguard the welfare of athletes bound for the Southeast Asian Games in Kuala Lumpur this year.

In another development, SEA Games chief of mission Freddie Jalasco welcomed the statement of BAP chair Gonzalo Puyat, who said Monday that he has yet to accept the BAP presidency.

PSC bars NCR athletes

ATHLETES from the National Capital Region Athletic Association yesterday were barred from entering their respective playing venues after league officials failed to settle their debt to the Philippine Sports Commission.

Cagebelles as well as volleyball squads playing for their respective schools failed to hold their scheduled semifinal games scheduled at 8 a.m. yesterday after PSC security cordoned off the Rizal Memorial Coliseum basketball court and the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

The restriction order came from PSC operation chief Rufino Geronimo, who claimed PSC commissioner Richie Garcia instructed him to enforce the order.

NCRAA President Teddy Talens, along with NCRAA treasurer Josefina Espino, sought Geronimo's reconsideration but was told to pay at least P200,000 on rent and operational expenses first before the PSC allows the games to resume in the two venues.

June Navarro

Garcia rules Class A

RAFFY Garcia fired a net 74 or 34 points based on the Stableford (PAL Points) System to capture the Class A title in the Chairman's Cup of the Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club recently in Carmona, Cavite.

Garcia, a scratch-handicapper, won over Minieng Maravilla and Kwang Soo Kim who both made 33 points. Maravilla, however, was declared first runner-up by virtue of a lower handicap.

In Class B, Domingo Juan's 39 was enough to beat Manila Southwoods chair Robert John L. Sobrepeña, who played impressively to finish with 37. Second runner-up honor went to Rodolfo Flordeliza with his 36.

Jesus Avecilla paced Class C with 48 points. Leandro Rosero was second with 47 and Bong Tuason was third with 45.

RP Ladies Open fires off today

THE NEW golfing season blasts off with the staging of the PLDT-Philippine Ladies Open starting today at the east course of the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club.

Length will be a big plus when the field of 90 players from eight countries take the challenge of the fabled course which should play a lot longer than its actual distance due to its soft fairways.

Aileen Rose Yao, the former world jungolf champion heading the entry roster, hopes to bounce back from last year's runner-up finish and finally capture her first-ever Open crown.

She lost last year to Sri Lankan Thinkrachini Selvarinam who has decided not to defend the crown she won in runaway fashion at the Manila Golf Club.

More than the other local players seeing action, Yao should be worried of the two Taiwanese aces seeing action, Hung Cin-hael and Shin Huei-jun. Both Hung and Shin are among the best back home and are touted to strongly contend for the champion's trophy of the event conducted by the Women's Golf Association of the Philippines.

Carmelette Villaroman-Calimag is another potential winner while veterans Niko Ruby Chico-Walker, Lina de Guzman, Lucy Landicho and Heidi Cha should also crowd the favorites for the crown.

Aside from Taiwan and host Philippines, the other participants in the three-day tourney are coming from Australia, Hong Kong, England, Korea, Macau, United States and New Zealand.

This year's Ladies Open is also supported by the Philippine Sports Commission, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Dunkin Donuts, Philhealth (Calciumade), Alexis, Nu[illegible] Bayer, Phil. Duplicators an[illegible]

The first round will be used for classification purposes with the [illegible] formers of the starting field to [illegible] play in the championship division in the second round and the rest sharing the top awards in the two other divisions.

NGAP president Rod Feliciano, Philippine Sports Commission [illegible] Garcia, WGAP president Gina Tuason and former Mayor Ben Abalos, president of Wack Wack, hit the ceremonial balls yesterday.

Cinnabon, Shell support Delasin golf at Riviera

Toyota's Echo Verso hole-in-one prize

DOROTHY Joy Delasin, with the firm backing of Cinnabon Rolls and Shell, will play a round of golf with her friends and supporters at Riviera's Langer in Silang, Cavite.

The tournament is on Jan. 17, a day before Delasin receives her Athlete of the Year award from the Philippine Sportswriters Association at the Holiday Inn.

The 20-year-old Delasin, the 2000 Rookie of the Year awardee of the US LPGA, joins members of the Maddogan Golf Club in an 18-hole affair dubbed "A Day With Delasin Part 2" on Jan. 17.

Toyota, through Raymond Rodriguez of the Toyota Motor Philippines Inc., is staking an Echo Verso as a hole-in-one prize on the four par-3s of Langer.

The first 60 applicants to the tournament, paying P2,500 each as tournament fee, will be accommodated. Participants are entitled to free breakfast, *merienda* and lunch and are qualified to win the Echo Verso. Call NGAP at 5256987 for details.

Cinnabon Rolls and Shell bought two business class tickets for Dorothy and her father, Sonny, and will also shoulder expenses for a 5-star hotel accommodation and transportation during the duo's four-day stay in Manila.

Mizuno, Citgo and Solahart will host the tournament in cooperation with Riviera Golf & Country Club through its president, Commodore Danny Pizarro, and GM John Blanch.

The National Golf Association of the Philippines will supervise the tournament, with NGAP president Rod Feliciano leading the group to hit the ceremonial tee shot.

The tournament's first edition was held last year at Wack Wack, with Delasin receiving financial support from corporations and individuals in her debut at the US LPGA.

President Estrada gave her P500,000 through the Philippine Sports Commission.

DELASIN

Among those invited to the event designed to pay tribute to Delasin's spectacular golf feats last year in America are Chair Butch Tuason of the Philippine Sports Commission, Olympic boss Cito Dayrit and PSC Commissioners Richie Garcia and Weena Lim.

PLDT
w.pldt.com.ph

TITLE SPONSOR—Philippine Junior Golf Federation president Edgardo "Tito Boy" Cantada (second from left) and PLDT Corporate Business Group Head Alfredo S. Panlilio shake hands after signing the agreement making the telecommunications giant the title sponsor of the 4th PLDT Philippine International Junior Golf Championships set Jan. 16-19 at Wack Wack's East Course. Looking on are top amateur player and tournament director Gerard Cantada and Ricardo R. Zarate, head of PLDT Fixed.

Report card

WHAT CAN I SAY

Bebo Quiros

P4.6 billion in sales. More than P830 million in direct revenue contribution to the government. Close to 12% growth in bad times. Those figures pretty much describe the healthy state of horse racing in the country today. Horse racing is a multi-sector industry composed of horse owners, horse breeders, jockey, trainer, and groom associations, as well as race track operators, working together under the supervision of the Philippine Racing Commission under the stewardship of Chairman Benedicto K. Katigbak.

From the performance report submitted to the racing public on Millenium Open Championship Day, 24 December 2000, we would like to highlight the significant achievements of the Philracom for the rest of the world to know, as follows:

"The following programs of action have been introduced, revised/reformed and/or implemented by the Philracom in response to the popular clamor of the various racing sectors and the betting public.

1. Amendment to the rules governing the implementation of the Drug Test Program on horses by allowing the shift from blood testing to urine testing on a conditional basis, subject to re-evaluation and consistent with the objective of pursuing a system that conforms to international standards.

2. Effectively and efficiently facilitating the registration of 480 horse owners, 160 horse trainers, 36 assistant trainers, 151 professional jockeys, 21 apprentice jockeys, 115 jockey's helpers, 610 grooms, 28 starting gate helpers, 5 racing associations, 2 racing clubs, 81 officials and 2,086 horses for the year.

3. Approval of the proposed revisions in the handicapping of maiden horses with the in end view of implementing a more rational system of equitably classifying horses and effecting more balance races.

4. Approval of the proposed weekly racing calendar with the end in view of encouraging the clubs to be more innovative and aggressive in promoting and marketing their races.

5. Accomplishing the approval of the year 2000 stakes program and the allotment of 15.9-million Pesos in prizes and breeder's purse.

6. Sponsorship of the "Angat Pinoy Summer Racing Festival" pursuant to the Medium Term Development Plan of President Joseph Ejercito Estrada.

7. Allocation of additional incentive prizes to both operational race clubs in order to ensure the holding of more quality races.

8. Conduct of regular consultative meetings with the various sectors with the objective of finding common solutions to problems and furthering the overall improvement of the whole industry.

9. Creating positive inroads in the proposal to integrate the function of the National Stud Farm with that of the Philracom to reflect the symbiotic relationship between breeding and racing.

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PBA board of governors elect new officials today

BY MARC ANTHONY REYES

BERNARDINO

THE PBA board of governors will meet today with the election of new officials on top of its agenda. Another highlight will be the commissioner's report about the 23-percent rise in the league's gate receipt.

Mobiline representative to the board, Iggy Yenko, is expected to be sworn in as league chair, replacing Alaska Milk's Wilfred Uytengsu in the 5 p.m. meeting at the Manila Golf Club.

Jun Bernardino's tenure as commissioner will also be decided by the board, heightening speculations of a major change in the commissioner's office.

"Why fix it if it ain't broke," Bernardino told sportswriters during yesterday's PSA Forum when asked about the revamp.

However, he added: "We are at the mercy of the board. We are on holdover capacity. In the event that I may no longer be re-appointed, it's only proper for my staff to tender courtesy resignation."

PBA legal counsel Butch Cleofe and marketing head Lito Anzures were reportedly sacked because of the pressure from the board although Bernardino said they haven't resigned yet.

Anzures, however, said he offered to resign effective at the end of the year 2000 but it was because he can't give "enough time to perform his duties to the fullest."

"It's unfair to say that I bowed out because the board is pressuring me," Anzures told the INQUIRER.

Bernardino will also break good news to the board, following the increased gross gate receipt for the 2000 season compared to that of 1999.

Despite the Fil-American player scam and the economic and political crunch, the PBA last year tallied a total gross gate receipt of P58,391,555, which is 23 percent better than the 1999 figure of P47,485,780.

Last season, the PBA also earned an average of P526,050 gross gate receipt per playing day as compared to the P443,792 average yield in 1999.

EYES ON THE BALL

ANNA Kournikova of Russia keeps her eyes on the ball as she returns a shot during the match against compatriot Elena Bovina during the Sydney International tennis tournament in Australia, Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2001. Kournikova won in straight sets, 6-4, 6-4. AP

Jun B backs PBL bid to reverse its pro status

BY JUNE NAVARRO

PBA commissioner Jun Bernardino yesterday supported the Philippine Basketball League's bid to reverse the ruling of the Games and Amusements Board on installing the PBL as a professional entity

Appearing at yesterday's PSA Forum, Bernardino said the PBL provides development programs for aspiring cagers hoping to play in the PBA and it has, in almost two decades of existence, not profited from its endeavors.

"The PBL has not profited from its operations. It is there to develop cagers for the big league and not as a business enterprise," said Bernardino.

"This reason alone is sufficient to categorize the PBL as an amateur league."

Bernardino also pointed out that players in the PBL are not bound by their contracts and could easily play for their respective schools in the UAAP, NCAA or any other school-based league.

He said that unlike PBL players, PBA cagers have no choice but to follow the restrictions in their contract.

Last week, the GAB ruled that the PBL is not an amateur league and is therefore subject to the supervision of the government regulatory body.

PBL Commissioner Chino Trinidad branded the decision as grossly erroneous and sought the help of President Estrada to repeal the ruling of the GAB.

Once the GAB's decision is put in effect, the PBL shall secure GAB permits for its games and allow GAB personnel to observe and monitor the games.

Furthermore, the PBL would be forced to remit a 3-percent share of its gross gate receipts and income from TV, radio and motion picture rights, if any.

Guevarra High booters prevail

P. GUEVARRA National High banked on the sparkling performance of Rizaldy Campomanes to whip Los Baños-South Hill School, 4-0, Monday and claim the Laguna provincial title in the 17th Coke Go-for-Goal under 16 football tournament here.

Campomanes struck twice—in the 47th and 70th minute—as P. Guevarra clinched a slot in the all-Luzon finals set Jan. 23-27 at the Philsports field in Pasig City.

Murpee Pasion and Michael Purisima produced the two other goals for PGNHS in the 10th and 67th minute, respectively.

Camp Vicente Lim High finished third by blanking San Pablo City College, 3-0, in the other match of the tourney sponsored by Coca-Cola with Adidas as official ball.

Last Sunday, Rizal, represented by Taytay High, beat Quezon's SLPC (South Luzon Polytechnic College) to earn a spot in the all-Luzon finals.

It's the first time that the provinces of Rizal and Quezon joined the nationwide Coke Go-for-Goal.

Driver loses left foot in car rally

LAS PALMAS, Canary Islands—The life of a Portuguese support driver who lost his left foot Monday after driving over a landmine during the 2001 Dakar Rally is not in danger, doctors attending to him said.

Jose Eduardo Ribeiro, who was injured when a landmine exploded under his car, was airlifted by a UN helicopter to the Gran Canarias Hospital in Las Palmas at 7 pm (1800 GMT) and immediatly underwent medical observations.

Ribeiro's car had strayed from the course when it triggered a land mine buried in the desert sand that blew off his left foot, said a United Nations spokesperson, who asked not to be identified by name. *AP*

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASKETBALL: NBA - San Antonio Spurs vs Orlando Magic at 9 a.m. (r – 8 p.m.) on ESPN

US NCAA—Syracuse Orangemen vs Rutgers Scarlet Knights at 1 p.m., Indiana Hoosiers vs Michigan Wolverines at 4:30 p.m. (r- 3 a.m.) and Alabama Crimson Tide vs Tennessee Volunteers at 12:30 a.m. on ESPN

PBA Governors Cup Finals at 6:30 p.m. on ESPN

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: Super Bowl XVI Highlights —Cincinnati Bengals vs San Francisco 49ers at 4 p.m. (r) on ESPN

GOLF: This is the PGA Tour at 8 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

BILLIARDS: 2000 Liverpool Victoria UK Championship, Quarterfinal #1 at 10:30 p.m. (r) on ESPN

RUNNING: New York Marathon 2000 Highlights at 11 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

SWIMMING: World Cup (USA) Highlights at 7 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

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MON. - FRI. (8 AM - 7 PM) / SATURDAY (8 AM - 3 PM)

Man throws a fit over P50

FRANK Alcarte, 30, allegedly ran amuck and threatened to stab a woman neighbor and her 7-year-old son after she refused to lend him P50 to pay for his *pulutan* in Quezon City on Sunday. Alcarte is now detained in Camp Karingal. *Philip C. Tubeza*

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Bottles vs bullets

CARGO firm workers Leo Aninio, 24, and Guillermo Anada, 35, were drinking at a beerhouse in Tondo, Manila when they went out and allegedly threw beer bottles on the bar roof Monday before dawn. Two other men came out and shot them. Aninio died from a bullet wound in the cheek while Anada was wounded twice. *Jerome Aning*

5 provinces join protest vs garbage

BY ANDREA TRINIDAD-ECHAVEZ; JOEL JABAL AND DELFIN T. MALLARI JR., *PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

OFFICIALS of five island-provinces in Southern Tagalog have joined forces with their counterparts from the Visayas provinces to oppose the Metro Manila Development Authority's plan to dump garbage on Semirara Island in Antique.

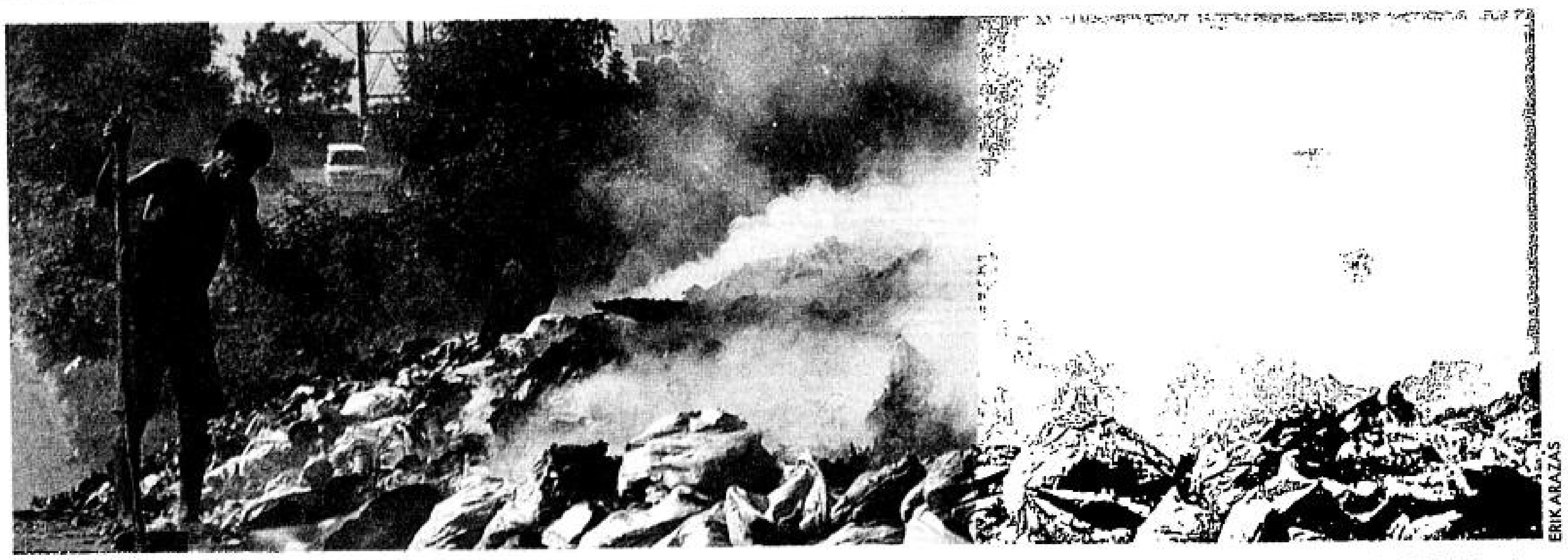
Romblon Gov. Perpetuo B. Ylagan, Marinduque Gov. Carmencita O. Reyes, Palawan Gov. Joel Reyes, Occidental Mindoro Gov. Josephine Ramirez-Sato and Oriental Mindoro Gov. Rodolfo G. Valencia are scheduled to meet in an emergency session this week.

Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan collectively are known as the "Mimaropa" sub-region.

The group is headed by Ramirez-Sato.

Valencia and Ramirez-Sato said they fear that the setting up of a garbage landfill on Semirara Island would affect the ecological balance of the Mimaropa sub-region.

5 PROVINCES/ A20



ERIK ARAZAS

THE ODOR, THE ODOR and the smoke of burning garbage overpower a worker trying to reduce the trash piling up on a part of C5 Road.

Absent-minded rapper beaten

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

FOR forgetting to greet a friend of the son of the owner of a music lounge he was performing in, rap artist Joe Formaran, also known as Blakdyak, was beaten up before dawn yesterday in Quezon City.

Boogie Castro, whose father is said to own Chatterbox on West Avenue in Quezon City, and his companions allegedly beat up Formaran, 32, of Mabilis Street in Barangay Pinyahan, Quezon City, according to investigator PO3 Emil Dela Cruz.

EH, SA MAKAKALIMUTIN AKO E!

Castro was said to have gotten mad because Formaran forgot to greet one of his friends who was celebrating her birthday.

Formaran was performing on stage at Chatterbox about midnight Monday when Castro approached him and asked him to greet one of his guests a happy birthday.

But Formaran forgot about the request, as he was engrossed in entertaining the audience.

Castro, however, did not forget his request. He waited for Formaran to finish his set and leave the bar, police said.

As Formaran was about to leave about 3:30 a.m. yesterday, Castro accosted him and tried to punch him on the face.

Formaran told police he tried to run away but Castro and his companions went after him. He said they caught up with him, ganged up on him and beat him up.

But bystanders intervened and stopped the beating, and Formaran went to the police station to ask for help.

Castro and his companions have not been arrested, but police said they were preparing charges of physical injuries against them.

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PBL: Malacañang sits as judge

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

(HARD TIMES: His old friends readily visited P.A. Zapanta, who passed away on Jan. 5, upon reading the obit in the Inquirer on Sunday. Pete, writer and war veteran, lies in state in his shack at the corner of Agham Road and Quezon Avenue in Quezon City. Before his death, Pete left a letter for Secretary Orlando Mercado of the Department of National Defense asking why his pension had been stopped four months ago when he was still alive. Pete's youngest son Roberto is also having a hard time collecting his father's burial benefits at the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO). Mr. Zapanta, a native of Tacloban, Leyte who spent most of his life writing and leading a simple existence in Manila, will be interred at the South Cemetery in Makati on Saturday morning.)

* * *

SOMEBODY wondered if Games and Amusements Board chair Dominador Cepeda was suffering from a terrible hangover when he penned that order putting the Philippine Basketball League, a non-stock, non-profit organization, under the supervision of his office.

I brushed off the suggestion and explained that I know Mr. Cepeda, a lawyer, to be a very sober government executive. He doesn't mix his drinks.

After that, I got a call informing me that very powerful sports figures, who walk freely the corridors of power by the Pasig, have suddenly realized Cepeda was actually a carryover from the Ramos administration. That strange move by Cepeda to make the PBL a captive of his office, the caller said, has been considered as silly, self-serving and disruptive by certain national power players.

Sorry, I explained, but I'm not in a position to comment on that move by the GAB, an agency under the Office of the President.

If someone else were on top at the PBL, I would have joined in the debate.

But my eldest son Chino happens to be the commissioner of the PBL.

* * *

The boy, running a fever, woke up early the other day and rushed to Malacañang to deliver his position paper stating the merits of the PBL as an amateur league.

I remember telling Chino he should be flattered because, if the PBL were not running smoothly, the GAB would've not suspected it to be a professional league.

I added: Maybe, in GAB's book, success is the measure of professionalism.

Chino, appearing haggard and pale, smiled a wan smile.

Actually, he would've been insulted if I had even suggested taking the cudgels for him.

I hate to brag about it but, together with his two younger brothers, Chino grew up fighting his own fights.

* * *

Just the same, I continued to be chided by friends for fence-sitting on the GAB-PBL issue.

I have actually left the table open for my fellow deadline-beaters to make their comments.

You see, I don't see anything wrong with the GAB supervising affairs like boxing in the country because the very nature of the sport speaks for its box-for-pay status.

It should also be noted that, although it had openly listed itself as professional, the Philippine Basketball Association was later put by ex-President Marcos under GAB supervision only after the league was rocked by trouble that included game-fixing and on-court hooliganism.

Someone suggested that the GAB decided to rule the PBL professional as it might have suspected the amateur league of making money and thereby cheating the government on taxes.

From what I know, the PBL is listed under the Securities and Exchange Commission as a non-profit organization and, as such, its books are open to public scrutiny.

* * *

Well, maybe Chair Cepeda has his other reasons.

But, if it might help enlighten, allow me to give the table to Quinito Henson, the highly respected columnist and sportscaster, who said GAB's move was a stab in the heart (of the PBL):

"After 17 years of operating as a non-professional league, the PBL is suddenly being placed under GAB supervision. You and I know that GAB supervision means giving up three percent of gross receipts to the government agency. For a league that operates on a lean budget, that's like a death blow."

Mr. Henson also noted that, as it would directly profit from the move listing the PBL as pro, the GAB, out of *delicadeza*, should've inhibited itself.

"There's a conflict of interest. It's like a judge in a case where he has a stake in the final decision—the prudent thing to do is inhibit himself," Henson added.

Noted in Mr. Henson's column of Tuesday was the fact that the PBL was formed to promote and develop amateur basketball; and that its income is used mainly for operations and not distributed to member teams, unlike in the PBA which remits profits to its franchises.

The PBL, it was stated, has been the training ground for players who eventually represent the country in international basketball competitions.

* * *

There were actually a number of other reasons stated on why the PBL status should not be tampered with.

But, in truth, after the case has been elevated to Malacañang, the final decision is expected to come from the Office of the Executive Secretary.

Let me repeat that, out of *delicadeza*, I don't find myself at liberty to comment on the exact merits of the PBL appeal to Secretary Edgardo Angara.

The PBL has clearly laid down its defense.

After the parties have laid their cards on the table, the verdict will be left in the hands of Secretary Angara.

Again, pardon my saying this. But the final decision on the PBL status should help determine if fairness and sobriety have retraced their paths back to the corridors of power.

Price cuts too small to affect fares—LTFRB

By Raul C. Dancel

THE LAND Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board yesterday said recent cuts in petroleum prices were too small to have an effect on jeepney and bus fares.

LTFRB chair Dante Lantin said in an interview that he agreed with transport groups that fuel prices should be cut by at least P2 a liter before the LTFRB could consider slashing jeepney and bus fares.

Romualdo Maranan, chair of the Federation of Jeepney Operators and Drivers Associations of the Philippines, said transport fares could be slashed by about 50 centavos had the country's oil firms brought down their prices by at least P2 a liter.

On Monday, Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Caltex Philippines Inc. cut gasoline prices by 60 centavos per liter and diesel and kerosene prices by 50 centavos per liter.

New oil players Unioil Petroleum Philippines Inc. and Total Petroleum Philippines Inc. also reduced their prices, with Unioil slashing gasoline prices by 52 centavos and diesel prices by 42 centavos and Total cutting gasoline prices by 60 centavos and diesel prices by 50 centavos.

Three other small oil companies—Eastern Petroleum Corp., Seaoil Philippines Inc. and Flying V—cut retail fuel prices by as much as 25 centavos on Jan. 2.

Maranan said these cuts in fuel prices were insignificant and should have been implemented a month ago.

"World crude prices fell from $32 to $22 per barrel," Medardo Roda, head of the Pinagkaisang Samahan ng Tsuper at Operators Nationwide, said. "That's a $10 reduction. At 20 centavos for every $1, the oil price cut should have been P2 per liter."

Fejodap's Maranan also slammed Petron, Pilipinas Shell and Caltex for making their price cuts "conditional."

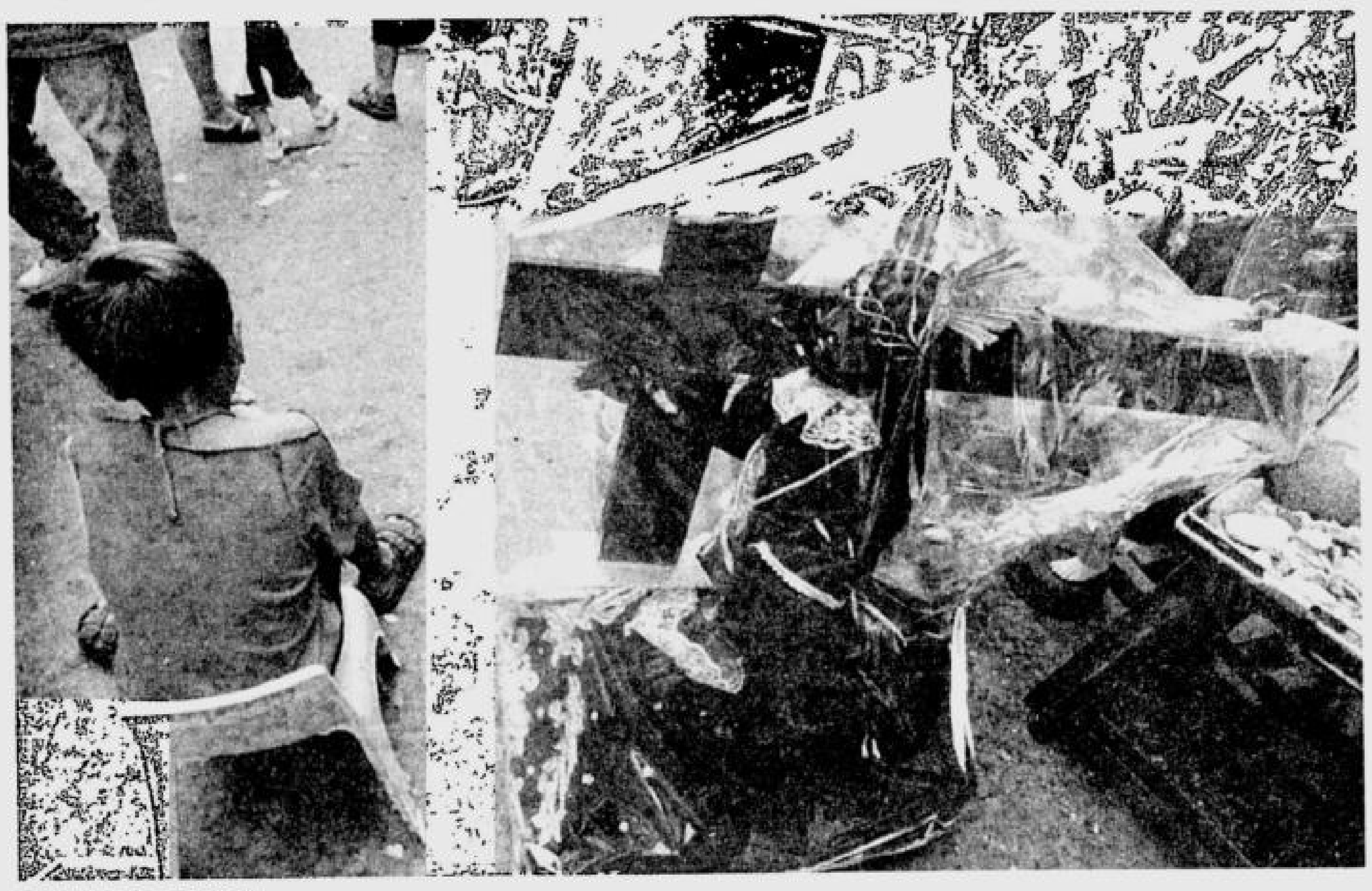
Both Petron and Shell said they might cut prices further if crude prices remain the same after a meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries on Jan. 17, which may consider production cuts to boost crude prices.

Local refiners are under pressure to cut rates because of falling world crude prices and a relatively stable foreign exchange rate in December.

The government earlier suggested oil companies cut prices by as much as P1 per liter.

The LTFRB last raised jeepney and bus fares by P1 to P4 in October 2000, citing a series of fuel price increases, rising costs of spare parts and an increase in the minimum wage in Metro Manila.

From P3 for the first 4 kilometers, the jeepney fare was increased to P4 for the first 5 kilometers. For each succeeding kilometer, an additional 63.5 centavos in Metro Manila was set.



SELLING FAITH

A plastic-wrapped miniature Black Nazarene is among the religious icons sold by a young vendor near the Quiapo Church, a day before the Jan. 9 feast of the patron saint of the district. JOAN BONDOC

Fire leaves street kids homeless again

AN UNIDENTIFIED man yesterday allegedly set on fire a Caloocan City shelter for street children, which left at least 31 of its residents homeless again.

Members of the Caloocan City Police District 1 are hunting down the man suspected of having tried to burn down Tahanang Mapagpala, a center for street children, in Bagumbong, Caloocan.

PO2 Constantino Guerrero said Eric Bandola, 5, saw a man in a white shirt splashing kerosene on a wall of the center about 4:30 a.m. yesterday.

Bandola told police the man then used a lighter to start the fire.

The fire was starting to spread but employees of the center put it out. Bandola said he rescued a boy named Eugene and reported the incident to Ester Pulay, a caretaker.

No one was reported injured during the fire, which lasted for several minutes.

While the resident street children and employees of the center were busy putting out the fire, a man in a white shirt was seen running away from the scene.

A boy said he saw the man jumping from a high wall.

Police are investigating why anyone would want to burn down the center, which the local government built a few years ago to provide shelter for young vagrants.

If caught, the suspect would face charges of attempted arson before the Caloocan City prosecutor's office.

Christian V. Esguerra

Boy charged with stabbing, robbery

A 13-YEAR-OLD boy has been charged before the Caloocan City prosecutor's office for allegedly stabbing a 19-year-old student and robbing her of P70 last week.

The prosecutor recommended a P128,000 bail for the temporary release of the young suspect, a resident of Kadiwa, Caloocan.

PO3 Rolando Domingo of the Caloocan Police Station Investigation Division said the boy sneaked into the house of Jocelyn Garcia, a student of Far Eastern University, on Purificacion Street in Maypajo at about 3 a.m. on Saturday. The boy entered through a broken-down window while Garcia was sleeping inside a mosquito net in the sala, Domingo said.

When Garcia was awakened, the boy stabbed her in the left thigh with a kitchen knife, police said.

The attack was stopped only after Garcia's mother Rosalie came to her daughter's rescue, investigation showed. Barangay officials arrested the boy several hours later.

Christian V. Esguerra

Blaze kills 92-year-old in QC home for the aged

By Philip C. Tubeza

A 92-YEAR-OLD woman died in a one-hour fire that struck the Golden Acres National Home for the Aged in Quezon City before dawn yesterday.

Asuncion Rosal, of San Luis Street, Pasay City, went back to the burning main building of Golden Acres at the back of SM City North on Misamis Extension in Barangay Bago Bantay, said arson investigator SFO1 Jaime Biscocho of the Quezon City fire department.

The old woman apparently wanted to get her bag, which contained the only money she had in the world, investigators learned.

Pandemonium broke out in the nursing home when the fire broke out at 1:03 a.m. yesterday. The blaze began in the middle portion of the social hall, firemen said. They have not determined the cause of the blaze, Biscocho added.

It burned down one building, which contained two cottages, and the social hall cum chapel. Social Welfare Undersecretary Felicidad L. Villareal estimated the damage at P6 million but said her department would quickly rebuild the building.

5 provinces join protest vs garbage

(From page A19)

Semirara, now a part of Caluya, Antique, is about two hours from the Occidental Mindoro towns of Bulalacao, San Jose and Magsaysay.

"Semirara residents do their marketing in Bulalacao and San Jose," Valencia said.

Lawyer Andy Fornier said in a fax message to Valencia that there are laws, including provincial and municipal resolutions, to thwart the "dirty moves" of MMDA chair Jejomar Binay and Presidential Adviser for Flagship Projects Robert Aventajado.

Antique Regional Trial Court Judge Nery G. Duremdes added 20 days to the temporary restraining order he earlier issued against the MMDA and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. The TRO stops the two agencies "from dumping garbage coming from Metro Manila into or at Unong Pit, or any other area at Semirara Island, in Caluya."

Mimaropa officials also expressed fears that because of the TRO, "barge operators might surreptitiously dump the garbage they are carrying in either Tablas Strait or Sibuyan Sea in the east or Mindoro Sea in the west."

In Tagkawayan, Quezon, Councilor Victor Jacinto Eleazar appealed to the Quezon provincial council to help him oppose the MMDA, which reportedly seeks to turn a part of his town into a dumpsite.

Eleazar told the Quezon Sangguniang Panlalawigan on Monday that the municipal council reportedly passed a resolution approving plans to set up a landfill in Barangay San Vicente just outside Tagkawayan town proper.

Manila-based Lamar Integrated Construction Services reportedly submitted a P500-million landfill proposal to the town council.

"We don't need the trash of Metro Manila," the councilor said. "If they want to help in the garbage problem of our town, that's fine, let's talk about it. But making our municipality a possible dumpsite or another Payatas, that we would not allow. It is unjustifiable and unfair for us to shoulder the burden of their trash problem."

In Quezon City, victims of the July 10 Payatas landslide have given Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr. five days starting Monday to close the controversial dumpsite or they would take him to court.

The July 10 Payatas Victims Organization (J10PVO), through its counsel, the Public Interest Law Center, sent Mathay a demand letter reminding him that Malacañang permanently closed the dumpsite on Dec. 31.

The victims also reminded Mathay that the remains of 85 people have not been recovered six months after a mountain of garbage came crashing down on an urban poor community in Lupang Pangako, Payatas. The landslide killed 217 people.

PILC lawyer Rachel Pastores said in the letter that the victims have yet to receive justice.

She added that the decision to reopen the dumpsite clearly showed the city government's lack of regard for the safety, health and well-being of Payatas residents.

Last year, the victims filed a P1-billion class suit against Mathay, Binay and Payatas chair Emelita Pecson.

A separate administrative complaint was filed against Aventajado because of his failure to find a solution to the problem on solid waste management.

Officials of Clean & Green Foundation—Piso Para sa Pasig, a non-government organization, have also expressed fears that Metro Manila's garbage problem would greatly set back the rehabilitation of the Pasig River.

"This is unfortunate, and it endangers river rehabilitation efforts of the past 10 years," Piso Para sa Pasig Project director Ramon Jacinto Socco Jr. said.

Man accused of raping his 2 sisters

A SUSPECTED drug addict is facing criminal charges for allegedly raping his two sisters on several occasions in Caloocan City.

Records of the Caloocan Police Women's and Children's Concern Desk showed that the suspect, a 27-year-old factory worker, allegedly abused his sisters, aged 17 and 19, several times last year in their house in Baesa, Caloocan.

The sisters told police their brother often raped them while he was high on drugs.

The suspect was said to have raped for the first time his 17-year-old sister in July 2000 when they were left alone in their house.

The sisters also told police their brother raped them both from Dec. 28 to 30 last year.

Police records showed the last rape happened at about 1 a.m. on Jan. 6 this year while the sisters were sleeping in their rooms.

The suspect admitted having raped the younger sister on several occasions, but denied abusing the 19-year-old.

The sisters live with their brother and his 7-year-old daughter. The suspect's wife is working abroad.

The suspect is now detained at the Caloocan Police headquarters. *Christian V. Esguerra*

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2 (SDDS) THE 6TH DAY
3 (DTS) MEET THE PARENTS
4 (GOLD DTS) MEET THE PARENTS
5 (GOLD DOLBY) TANGING YAMAN
6 (GOLD SDDS) SPIRIT WARRIORS
7 (GOLD DOLBY) EMPERORS GROOVE
8 [illegible] KANGKONG
9 [illegible] BALAHIBONG PUSA
10 [illegible] GATAS

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486
1 GATAS
2 KANGKONG
3 (DTS) RESERVE
4 RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 (DTS) THE 6TH DAY
Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
(Kalaw) tel 536.4315
1 (DOLBY) THE 6TH DAY
2 (DTS) DEATH ROW
3 MEET THE PARENTS

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603
1 GATAS
2 THE 6TH DAY
3 BALAHIBONG PUSA

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986
1 GATAS
2 BALAHIBONG PUSA
3 TANGING YAMAN
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) THE 6TH DAY
5 KANGKONG

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543.4001
1 PING LACSON STORY
2 GATAS
3 TANGING YAMAN
4 DEATH ROW
5 EMPERORS NEW GROOVE
6 THE 6TH DAY
7 SPIRIT WARRIORS
8 MEET THE PARENTS

Uniwide Metromall
(Las Piñas) tel. 873.5606 loc. 1074
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2 HOT SPOT
3 LABAN KUNG LABAN
4
5 WATCH 3 MOVIES FOR ONLY P30 00
6

Uniwide Coastal Mall
(Parañaque) tel 879.0001 loc. 2152
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3 FIRST STRIKE
4 WHO AM I (Jacky Chan Festival)

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(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
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2 PING LACSON STORY

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
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1 KANGKONG
2 GATAS
3 THE 6TH DAY

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864
1 BALAHIBONG PUSA
A KANGKONG

JÇ Cinema
(Parañaque) tel 825.8626
1
3 KANGKONG

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8568
1 (DOLBY) BALAHIBONG PUSA
2 PING LACSON STORY
3 DEATH ROW
4 SPIRIT WARRIORS
5 TANGING YAMAN
6 KANGKONG
7 (DTS) MEET THE PARENTS
8 (SDDS) GATAS
9 (DOLBY) THE 6TH DAY

Caloocan
tel 362.3508
THE 6TH DAY
KANGKONG
GATAS
2
3
4
5
6

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781
1 GATAS
2 SPIRIT WARRIORS
3 TANGING YAMAN
4 (SDDS) BALAHIBONG PUSA
5 KANGKONG
6 (DOLBY) THE 6TH DAY
7 (DTS) MEET THE PARENTS
8 DEATH ROW
9 PING LACSON STORY

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083
1 (DTS) MEET THE PARENTS
2 GATAS
3 TANGING YAMAN
4 SPIRIT WARRIORS
5 (SDDS) THE 6TH DAY
6 BALAHIBONG PUSA
7 (DOLBY) KANGKONG
8 PING LACSON STORY

Ortigas
tel 656.6795
1 SPIRIT WARRIORS
2 MEET THE PARENTS
3 (DTS) GATAS
4 BALAHIBONG PUSA
5 (SDDS) THE 6TH DAY
6 (DOLBY) TANGING YAMAN
7 (DOLBY) KANGKONG

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(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 GATAS

Sampaquita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888
1 GATAS

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724
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Lords
Jennet

MARKETMALL Mandaluyong
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1 KANGKONG
2 BALAHIBONG PUSO
3 GATAS
4 THE 6TH DAY

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215
1
3 GATAS

Super Cinerama
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2 BALAHIBONG PUSA
3 TANGING YAMAN
4 GATAS
5 KANGKONG

Divisoria Mall
(Manila) tel 244.4560 or 244.4619
1 BALAHIBONG PUSA
2 KANGKONG
3 GATAS
4 THE 6TH DAY
5 PING LACSON STORY
6 DEATH ROW

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1 GATAS
2 KANGKONG
3 THE 6TH DAY

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
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1 TANGING YAMAN
2 GATAS
3 (DTS) THE 6TH DAY

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 GATAS
2 (DTS) TANGING YAMAN
3 (DOLBY) THE 6TH DAY
4 MEET THE PARENTS

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) THE 6TH DAY
2 GATAS
3 KANGKONG
4 (DTS) BALAHIBONG PUSA

Lianas MovieCity
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3 (DTS) MEET THE PARENTS
4 CRACKER JACK
5 EMPERORS NEW GROOVE

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2 MEET THE PARENTS
3 GATAS

Olivarez Los Baños
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2 EMPERORS NEW GROOVE
3 GATAS

Olivarez Tagaytay
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2 TANGING YAMAN
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2 THE 6TH DAY
3 SPIRIT WARRIORS

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3 KANGKONG
4 GATAS

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2 (DTS) GATAS

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1 BALAHIBONG PUSA

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(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 TANGING YAMAN
2 GATAS
3 THE 6TH DAY

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 TANGING YAMAN
2 DEATH ROW
3 THE 6TH DAY
4 THE 6TH DAY

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tel 879.2168
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2 RESERVE

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(Parañaque) tel 820.7269
1 GATAS
2 THE 6TH DAY
3 EMPERORS NEW GROOVE
4 TANGING YAMAN

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2 TANGING YAMAN
3 BALAHIBONG PUSA
4 (DTS EX) MEET THE PARENTS

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❻ PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
❼ MEET THE PARENTS

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❸ TANGING YAMAN
❹ PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
❺ KANGKONG
❻ BALAHIBONG PUSA

BACOLOD
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❶ THE 6TH DAY
❷ TANGING YAMAN
❸ BLAIR WITCH 2
❹ DEATH ROW
❺ MARKOVA: COMFORT GAY
❻ SUGATANG PUSO

DOLBY dts SDDS

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	TANGING YAMAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	GATAS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	MEET THE PARENTS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	THE 6TH DAY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	SPIRIT WARRIORS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	THE 6TH DAY
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	THE 6TH DAY
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	GATAS
FIESTA CARNIVAL	PING LACSON STORY
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	THE 6TH DAY
MIRAMAR	ANG GUSTO KO SA LALAKE / HOT SPOT
ODEON	THE 6TH DAY
ODEON-2	PING LACSON STORY
ROBEN	GATAS
TANDEM-1	SPIRIT WARRIORS
TANDEM-2	NAGHUHUMIYAW
TIMES	HOLLOW MAN / GINGER SNAPS
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	MARKOVA COMFORT GAY
ACT-2	IKAW LAMANG
ACT-3	CLASS AGAIN
ACT-4	KAAGAW
CORONET-2	GATAS
QUEZON-1	THE 6TH DAY
REMAR	THE 6TH DAY
REMAR-2	GATAS
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	MARKOVA COMFORT GAY
OCEAN CINEMA-A	LARO SA BAGA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	GUEVARRA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE
CINEMA-2	THE 6TH DAY
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-54091 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	SPIRIT WARRIORS
CINEMA-2	GATAS
CINEMA-3	TANGING YAMAN
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE 6TH DAY
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	DEATH ROW
CINEMA-6	PING LACSON STORY
CINEMA-7	MARKOVA: COMFORT GAY
CINEMA-8	SPIRIT WARRIORS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	THE 6TH DAY
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE 6TH DAY
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	MEET THE PARENTS
CINEMA-12	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE
CINEMA-14	GATAS
CINEMA-15	TANGING YAMAN
LORES	
CINEMA-2	THE 6TH DAY
CINEMA-3	TANGING YAMAN
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	TANGING YAMAN
CINEMA-2	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP
CINEMA-3	BALAHIBONG PUSA
CINEMA-4	THE 6TH DAY
CINEMA-5	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE
CINEMA-6	MEET THE PARENTS

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

SUMMING up now, the 2000 Metro Manila Film Festival was relatively successful and significant, despite the bombings that reduced its gross take after Dec. 30. It also taught our film people and moviegoers alike some lessons that should serve them well this year, if they take heed:

First, you don't need sex and violence to make a movie sell. The two top grossers, "Spirit Warriors" and "Tanging Yaman," were wholesome youth and family films and yet they made a mint.

Second, films made by movie studios with "sister" TV stations have a big edge over other movies because they get a lot of promotions on TV—not just in terms of movie trailers, but also in terms of "guestings" on the channels' various programs.

So, producers who don't enjoy the same TV support should avoid showing their movies in competition with the productions of Star Cinema and GMA Films, or think up novel ways to balance the unequal equation.

Third, next time around, the Metro filmfest people shouldn't leave the task of assigning performances to specific categories to the producers of the official festival entries. This accounted for a lot of the confusion related to the recent filmfest's acting awards. Instead, it should be the members of the board of judges who should decide if a performance is lead or support.

Fourth, veteran stars still have a lot of creativity and box-office clout left in them. The recent filmfest was a triumph for above-60 stars (**Gloria Romero, Dolphy, Eddie Garcia**), unlike other times of the film year, when young stars hold sway and "old" stars are generally overlooked or relegated to supporting roles. Let's hope that the resurgence of top stars in lead roles will be sustained throughout the film year.

Fifth, some "supporting" or even "cameo" roles can help make a movie special. This is a tribute to our "smaller" but better actors who are usually ignored, but came on strong during the festival because they were given memorable albeit brief roles to essay.

LESSONS/ A22

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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Asian monarch in Hollywood

BY LEAH SALTERIO

HE is one of Hollywood's leading Asian-American actors. Thanks to the huge box-office success of director Andrzej Bartkowiak's "Romeo Must Die," which starred Jet Li, the popularity of Russell Wong was sealed.

Wong's seven-minute fight-to-the-finish martial arts duel with Li in "Romeo Must Die," gave the Asian-American actor prominence in the Hollywood filmmaking scene. Hence, even if he played a bad guy role in the movie, Wong was thankful for his considerable exposure in the film.

But even before he wowed audiences with his martial arts skills in "Romeo Must Die," Wong was already a veteran of Wayne Wang films, including "Eat a Bowl of Tea" and "The Joy Luck Club."

Wong made his film debut in the big screen adaptation of James Clavell's "Taipan." He was also in the cast of other big screen releases such as "New Jack City," "China Cry," "China Girl," "The Tracker" (with Casper Van Diem) and "Takedown" (with Tom Berenger and Skeet Ulrich).

Wong also starred in the syndicated TV series, "The Vanishing Son."

That he has 17 years of martial arts training proved to be an asset for Wong, since he is able to do his own stunts.

His fighting skills, coupled with good looks, towering physique and acting talent, made Wong one of the most sought-after Asian-American actors in Hollywood today. No wonder, he made it to People Magazine's annual list of 50 Most Beautiful People.

> Russell Wong, who plays the title role in Hallmark TV's 'The Monkey King,' consolidates his position as one of the pre-eminent Asian-American actors.

A native of New York, Wong is one of seven children of a now-retired restaurateur and an artist mother.

Asian roots

He claims to have been influenced by his mom to embark on an acting career.

"My mother is very artistic," Wong told the INQUIRER in a phone interview from Hong Kong. "Much of my creative sense came from her. My younger brother, Michael, is also an actor based in Hong Kong."

Yet, even if he was born and raised in New York, Wong is not alien to his Asian roots.

"I've been coming back and forth to the East quite a bit so I'm familiar with Asian culture," Wong said. "In Hong Kong, I have a lot of Filipino friends."

Aside from his mother, Wong was influenced to try acting by his Hollywood idols.

"I admire Dustin Hoffman in 'Midnight Cowboy' and Christopher Walken in 'Dead Zone,'" Wong said. "They have been great influences on me.

"I love watching movies. They excite me. The attraction that I had in watching films was the reason I went into acting."

Once he tasted the thrill of the kleig lights and the cameras, Wong made an effort to broaden his knowledge in the film industry. He took classes in film production at the prestigious New York University and studied even directing.

"I feel it's important to be knowledgeable in your craft," he reasoned out. "I always have this thirst for learning so I lost no time in studying all about film."

TV movie

Last year, Wong snatched another important acting part in a TV mini-series jointly produced by Hallmark Entertainment Network and NBC. He plays the title role in "The Monkey King," which will premiere first quarter of this year on the Hallmark Channel. The mini-series, written by David Henry Hwang, is an adaptation of the ancient Chinese novel, "Journey to the West," by Wu Chen. Also starring are Thomas Gibson and Bai Ling.

As the legend goes, the Monkey King is half-monkey, half-human. For his part as Sun Wu Kong, Wong's good looks are hidden behind makeup and prosthetics, with added bits of facial hair.

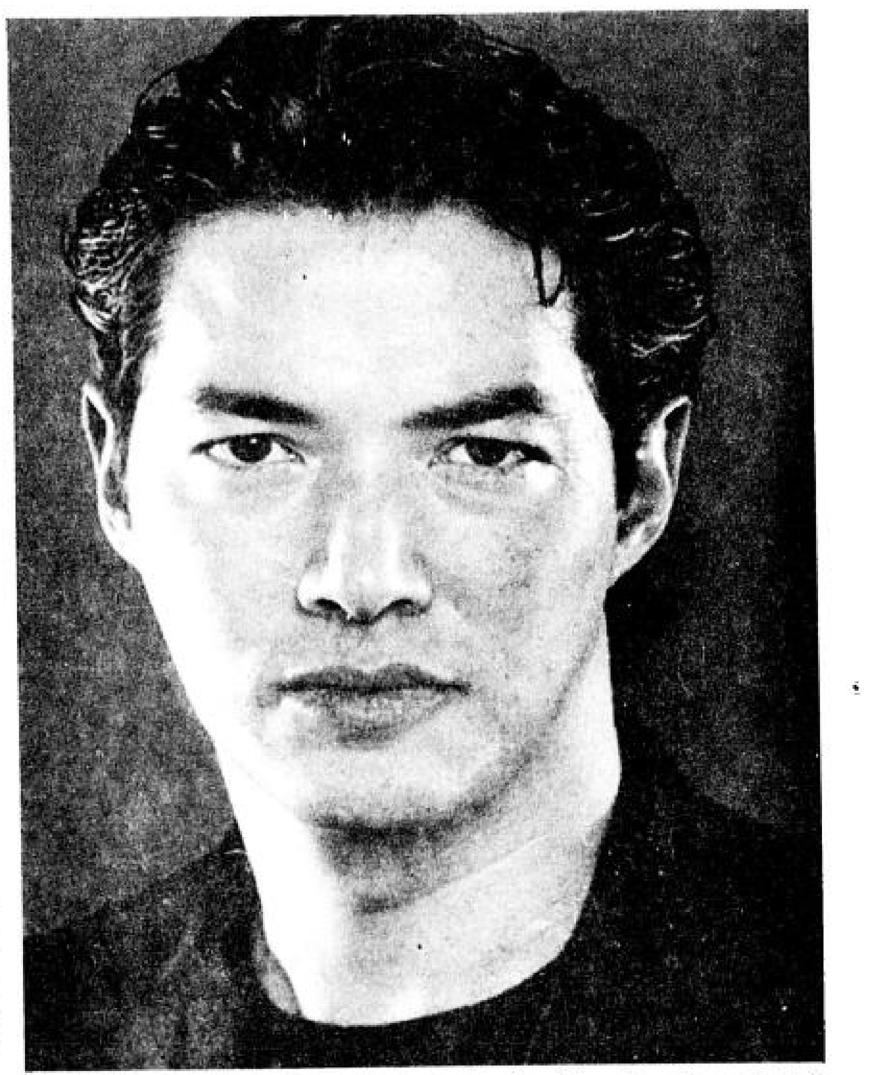
"I was hardly recognizable in the film," Wong said. "But character-wise, the movie is very challenging. It's an excellent historical material based on a Chinese novel and David Hwang wrote a very good script. The actors I worked with were also good and well-trained."

"The Monkey King" meant hard work for Wong, who spent an average of 14 hours a day on the set of the TV movie. His makeup alone took two hours to complete before shooting. The series was filmed for 12 weeks in Prague, Singapore and Malaysia.

But Wong prepared for his part. He went to the zoo to tape videos of monkeys as part of his research and preparations for the role. Moreover, he read an English translation of the three volumes of the original novel.

"I'm very honored to be offered this role," Wong said. "Hallmark makes some of the greatest TV movies to date. 'The Monkey King' is now included in that list and I'm glad to have been a part of the project."

Asked why he got the title role, the 37-year-old Wong quipped, "One of the Monkey King's dominant traits is arrogance. I'm full of ego, that's why they cast me for the part."



RUSSELL Wong is one of the most sought-after Asian-American actors in Hollywood today.

IN MAKEUP, prosthetics and a bit of facial hair, Wong takes on the challenge for "The Monkey King."

Lessons learned . . .

(From page A21)

We're talking about the ensemble of gifted character actors in "Deathrow" and "Tanging Yaman," and **Chaning Carlos** in "Markova: Comfort Gay." Take a collective bow, ladies and gents—and let's hope producers continue to give you memorable roles to play this year.

Of course, our ultimate hope is that some of you be given lead roles as well in innovative projects that won't rely on star value to get viewers interested in seeing them.

Our feeling is that our moviegoers are ready for such films. After all, "Spirit Warriors" and "Tanging Yaman" topped the festival's box-office race with not a single superstar in them.

Sixth, films that try to do something fresh ("Spirit Warriors" and "Tanging Yaman") are appreciated by moviegoers, who reward them with their enthusiastic patronage. We trust that filmmakers will take this to heart and aim for a fresh approach and a measure of significance and risk-taking in their subsequent productions.

Don Johnson in 'Nash Bridges'

ON Jan. 5, **Don Johnson** returned to the TV screen by way of the new action-adventure series, "Nash Bridges," seen here on Star World every Friday at 9 p.m. (replays on Saturdays at midnight).

Johnson is also the executive producer of the stylish and funny crime drama about a top-notch San Francisco police investigator who's great at his job but terribly inept when it comes to his private life.

At his side is his wisecracking partner (**Cheech Marin**), who is preoccupied with balancing his work and his life as a new father, while still finding time for his latest get-rich scheme.

Don Johnson first achieved TV stardom with "Miami Vice," and went on to star in some movies.

TV treats

ON "OPRAH" today (1 p.m. on Star World), the topic is "Writers on Writing." On Thursday, Jan. 11, "What the Experts Wish You Knew." On Friday, Jan. 12, "Go To Your Destiny."

At 12 midnight today on Star World (on Home Cable Ch. 48 and Destiny Cable Ch. 26), the 28th American Music Awards will be replayed. **Britney Spears** hosts the awards show.

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TANGING YAMAN 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00	PREDATOR FROM THE DEEP 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	BALAHIBONG PUSA
THE 6TH DAY 11:40, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40	EMPERORS NEW GROOVE 12:30, 2:20, 4:10, 6:00, 7:50, 9:40	MEET THE PARENTS 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

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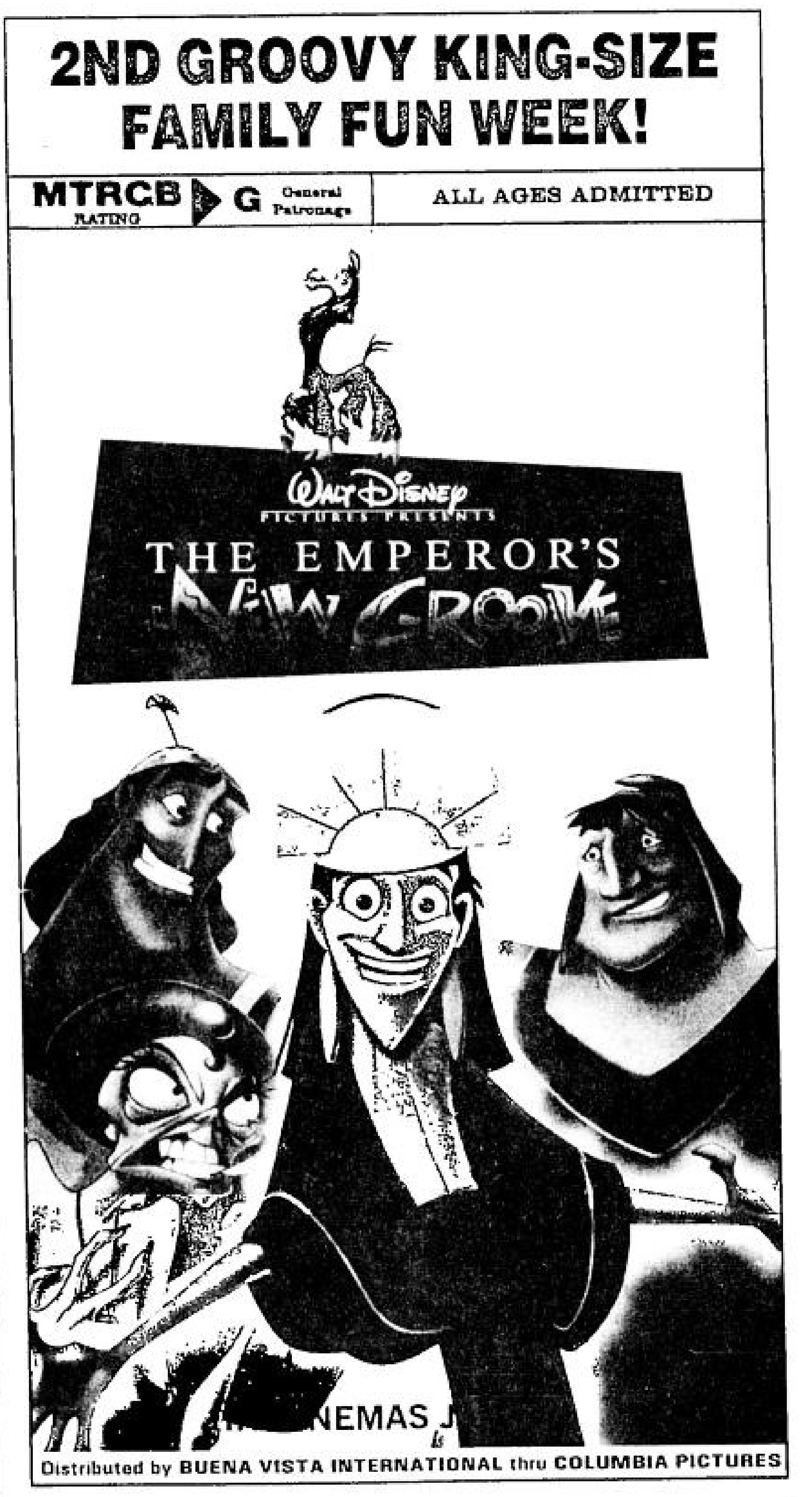

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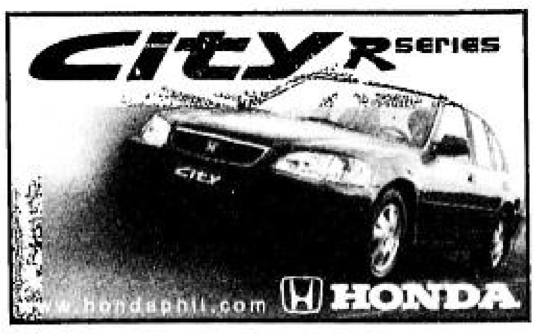


City R series

www.hondaphil.com HONDA

5 banks vie for San Miguel privatization

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

GOLDMAN Sachs Group Inc. and four other banks are vying to advise the government on the best way to get its money out of a 27-percent stake in San Miguel Corp., the country's biggest food and beverage company, a senior government official said.

Finance Undersecretary Joel Bañares said the four others shortlisted from an original list of 10 were ING Barings, Morgan Stanley and Co., Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. and Credit Suisse First Boston.

At yesterday's share price, the stake is valued at P35 billion.

Noel Bonoan, spokesperson for DOF, said the five investment banks presented proposals that featured both an outright sale of the 27 percent as well as an attachment to a planned $1-billion government bond offering.

A DOF committee that met with the five banks was scheduled to choose one or two underwriters yesterday but deferred any action until later this week.

The Estrada administration is considering either a direct sale of the government-held shares or the sale of bonds convertible into San Miguel shares, said Bañares, speaking to reporters during a break in a meeting with bank representatives.

"These banks will advise us how to sell or monetize the San Miguel shares," said Bañares. "We're looking at either exchangeable bonds or direct sale of the shares."

He said the adviser will be hired to help the government look for investors, be to a single investor or to the public through a general offering.

The government holds 27 percent of the country's largest brewer in shares seized as part of so-called "ill-gotten" gains by former dictator Ferdinand Marcos and his cronies.

"They will advise the government on how to raise the funds," Finance Secretary Jose Pardo said of yesterday's presentation by the banks. He said the government would choose one or two banks to handle the sale.

The government seized the shares in 1986, claiming they had been bought by an illegal levy on coconut farmers imposed by a Marcos crony. Ownership of the shares is now being contested by farmers and large coconut processors, both of whom claim they paid the levy.

San Miguel is open to government plans to sell the shares provided the method is "legally permissible and financially beneficial to all stockholders," company spokesman Ramon Santiago said.

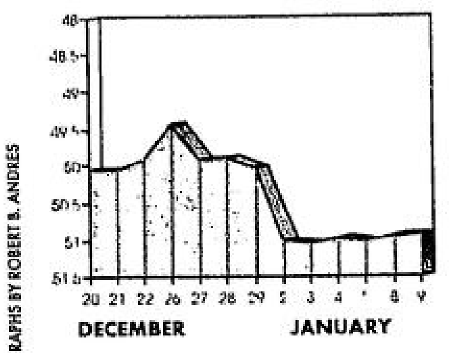
The proceeds, according to Pardo, would still be held by a trust fund set up for coconut farmers and jointly managed with the Cojuangco group. Interest on the proceeds would be used to finance coconut-farming projects.

Asahi Breweries Ltd. of Japan and Heineken Group of Germany were reportedly keen on investing in San Miguel. *With a report from Bloomberg*

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

Peso-Dollar Rate

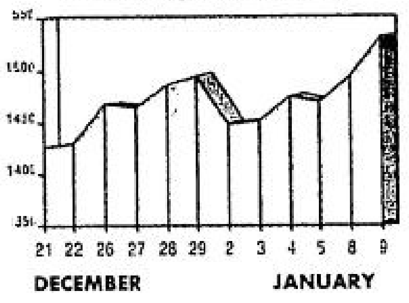
P50.935 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
Jan. 9, 2001

Y115.96 = $1
The US dollar was trading at 115.96 as of 5 p.m., Jan. 9, 2001

GOLD:$268.20/268.70
per ounce Hong Kong,
Jan. 9, 2001

STOCK MARKET

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares up 2.5%

SHARES finished higher yesterday on expectations that interest rates will follow local treasury yields downwards, traders said.

The cut in pump prices by oil companies also helped improve sentiment in the local stock market, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended up 37.44 points, or 2.5 percent, to 1,531.82, adding to a 1.7-percent gain Monday.

In Monday's weekly treasury bill auction, the benchmark 91-day bill fell to 12.598 percent from 12.883 percent at last week's auction.

Property stocks were among the most active shares Tuesday, led by blue chips Ayala Land, which rose 30 centavos, or 5.5 percent, to P5.80, and SM Prime, which gained 20 centavos to P6.20.

Property demand traditionally improves whenever interest rates go down, traders said.

Lower interest rates will help reduce corporate borrowing costs and improve investors' appetite for equities as investible funds shift away from fixed income instruments, traders said. *AP*

Malampaya gas seen available by June

THE MALAMPAYA gas fields could deliver ahead of schedule as its rate of completion is at 80 percent as of end-2000, developer Shell Philippines Exploration (Spex) BV has reported.

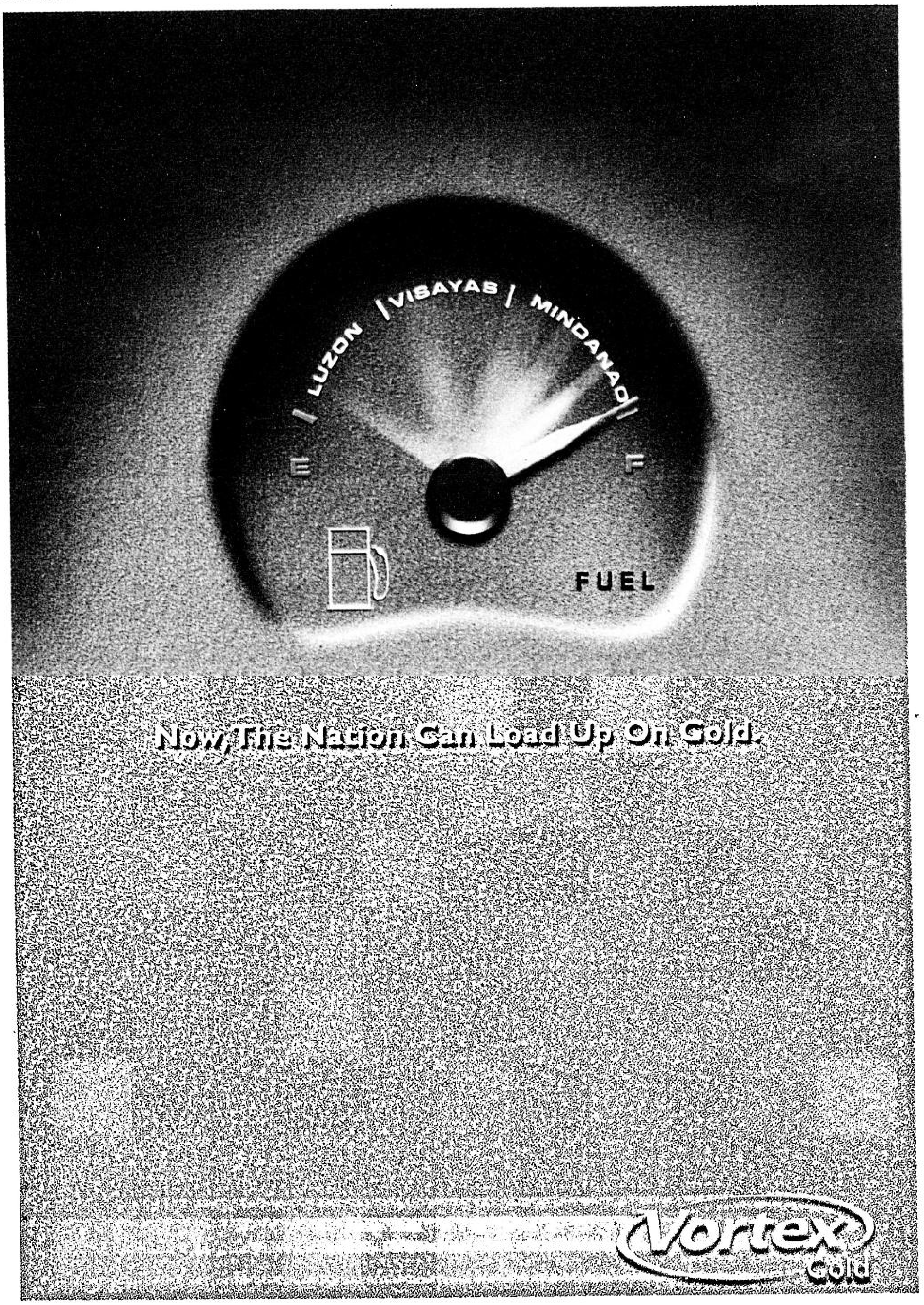
Shell Exploration, which is a unit of the Royal Dutch/ Shell Group, said it expected gas to first flow from the field in June this year or ahead of the October target schedule.

"The previous target was a completion rate of between 77 percent and 78 percent by end-2000," Shell Exploration managing director David Greer said in an interview.

Greer noted that the natural gas could be sold to power plants in October 2001. However, he said that gas would be available commercially in January 2002.

Spex and its partners will spend some $500 million in the next two years for its Malampaya gas and oil-drilling project off the coast of Palawan.

According to Greer, the company would drill up to four oil development wells in the offshore Malampaya field aside from its five gas-production wells in the field.



Now, The Nation Can Load Up On Gold.

Vortex Gold

VORTEX GOLD. Now available in all Caltex stations nationwide.

Load up and break free with Vortex Gold -- a new generation, high-performance unleaded fuel that cleans your engine to give it a smoother drive, better acceleration, improved economy and quicker response. Tried and tested in Metro Manila and other key cities across the nation. Guaranteed safe for all gasoline engines.

POWER TO BREAK FREE CALTEX

Another Erap CD

COCKTALES

By Victor C. Agustin

IN the aftermath of the underground success of The White Album, a second CD/cassette of anti-Erap songs is due out this week, this time titled "The Gray Album."

Like the first album, the second Erap CD features adaptations of popular rock and roll and pop songs sung by the same "Ousters Band."

If the grapevine is correct, The Gray Album contains 13 songs, the number not deliberately chosen to drive the 13th president of this country to another fit of tridecaphobia, but simply because the CD has enough memory to hold only 13 songs.

One song, "Huling-Huli" (sung to the tune of "Wooly Bully"), the first tune in the first album, has been updated to include the testimony of Equitable PCI Bank's Clarissa Ocampo.

Because of space limitations, other songs lined up, like the adaptations of Hotdogs' "TL Ako Sa 'Yo" (which contains the hilarious line, "May toyo ang utak mo"), dedicated to one senator, and the still popular bar song of the '60s, "Hoy, Mestizo!", dedicated to another senator, had to be left out.

And like The White Album, duplication of The Gray Album is "highly encouraged" by its "proudly underground, bravely patriotic" producers.

(Those who e-mailed this column as to where they could purchase copies of the CD, our advice is to tap your opposition sources or send someone to buy from itinerant vendors during opposition rallies.

The Internet-savvy may download the CD and similar songs from www.asarproject.org, also for free.)

Watch out for Rolex

WHILE the Estrada administration was scrambling last month to shore up investor confidence amid the continuing political unrest, top executives of the American consumer pillar Kimberly-Clark Philippines spent the night of Dec. 18 with common criminals in the Makati police station.

And all because Kimberly-Clark would not agree to the higher land-lease terms being demanded by an Erap congressional ally.

What was reported in the papers was that Kimberly-Clark executives had been arrested over alleged illegal deep-well water use in its San Pedro, Laguna plant.

What was not reported, however, was that the brains behind the suit, Iloilo Rep. Rolex Suplico, is the son-in-law/lawyer of the landlord, in addition to being the main proponent of a congressional investigation against Kimberly-Clark on the very same charge.

The strange thing about the Suplico suit is that the congressman's very own father-in-law, Manuel Cancio of Goodwill Bookstore, had himself repudiated the arm-twisting and renewed the 25-year lease with Kimberly-Clark behind Suplico's back.

When Suplico belatedly found out what his father-in-law did, the Erap congressman filed a civil suit to nullify the contract, claiming it had been consummated with deceit.

There is more. Suplico has also forbade one of the two adopted daughters of Cancio (the old man is childless), from seeing or visiting her adoptive father without Suplico's permission.

That, dear readers, is the true-to-life "Tanging Yaman" story waiting to be told.

Scatological statements

THE URINAL habits of Filipino drivers and male pedestrians are beginning to be separated from stray dogs, now that more and more gasoline stations are providing decent "comfort" rooms for John Q. Public.

Total, from the land that popularized perfume to mask its people's lack of sanitation, has even provided air-conditioned—we are not kidding—comfort rooms clean enough to compete with those of Makati hotels.

Cocktales stumbled upon this belated but wonderful discovery when he gassed up one recent evening at the Total station on Kamagong Street and Metropolitan Avenue in Makati.

A taxi driver also pulled up at the station, not to fill his tank, but just to relieve his own liquidity problem. And so did another driver.

The young gas attendants, all in crisp white shirts, seem to take pride in their work. Even the station manager was walking around and picking up trash from the ground.

Heard through the grapevine

IF you want to find out how the old rich Ayalas are stretching their money in these parlous times, go take a look at the "new" seats of the newly renovated Greenbelt Cinemas.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

GTEB overhauls garment quota allocation system

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE GARMENTS and Textile Export Board has sewn up sweeping reforms in the allotment of export quotas to apparel exporters this year to ensure the industry's survival beyond 2004 when the quota system in North America and Europe is abolished.

The new GTEB rules on quota granting are meant to simplify the process: make the process transparent, predictable and flexible; reward the achievers and punish non-performers, and promote market and merchandise development using quotas as incentives.

These reforms were bared yesterday by GTEB Executive Director Felicitas Agoncillo-Reyes who expects garments exports to sustain the growth trend, albeit at a slower pace, this year despite the anticipated slowdown in the US economy.

After two consecutive years of decline, garments and textile exports jumped by 12.17 percent last year to $3.201 billion from $2.854 billion in 1999 on the back of strong sales to the US (up 11.6 percent to $2.39 billion) and Europe (up 16.21 percent to $373 million). The GTEB expects exports to improve by 5.4 percent to $3.384 billion this year.

Reyes said that with only four quota years left, "there is a need to prepare the industry to take steps now to increase their competitiveness for the quota-free global market."

But she admitted that the new reforms would cause an uproar among industry players (the GTEB will hold a public hearing on the reforms today) particularly in the stiff penalties for the unused quotas and strict compliance to mandatory industry rankings.

Under the proposed changes in the quota rules, the GTEB quota allocation will be simplified from three to two categories (critical and non-critical) while the allocations for hot items would be further cut up to only three baskets instead of the previous nine.

The annual quotas would be allocated in November (advanced) and February (regular) with the apportionment based on the ranking of garment exporters. Exporters would be ranked not only on the local value added of their products but also on their freight on board (FOB) value.

Reyes said exporters have up to May 31 to either transfer 40 percent of their allocations to other exporters or surrender their unused quotas to the GTEB. The unused quotas would be granted through bi-monthly allocations using the industry ranking to determine how many extra quotas the exporters could get

She said the industry rankings were meant to give exporters with higher FOB values more quotas instead on depending only on the local value added of exporters. "This way we can determine the products that have high FOB values or those geared for high-end markets where we want the country's exporters to focus in a post-quota era," Reyes said. "It has been accepted that local garment exporters cannot compete with the low-end items manufactured by low cost competitors."

For small and medium enterprises, the GTEB has increased their minimum quota allocations from 300 dozens to 1,000 dozens. Reyes said the new rules offer more stability because they would be assured of getting their share of any unused quotas through scheduled allocations timed with major buying seasons instead of the previous practice of speculating in the gray market.

Reyes said the new rules were geared toward rewarding performers or those who fully use up their allocations of best-selling categories with bigger quotas in subsequent years while penalizing those that do not maximize their quotas.

Smart earmarks ₱21B for 2001 expansion

By Anthony O. Alcantara

CATANDUANES—Smart Communications Inc. has allotted P21 billion for the expansion of its cellular phone and public payphone networks this year.

Smart president Napoleon Nazareno, in yesterday's launching of the company's first satellite-based payphone in San Miguel, Catanduanes, said that the public payphone network was an important component of the company's expansion program.

In partnership with its sister company, ACeS Philippine Cellular Satellite Corp., Smart was able to launch the country's first satellite-based payphone, one of the 1,500 to be installed this year.

"The satellite PCOs (public calling offices), which offer IDD and NDD phone services, will complement Smart's network of Tawag Centers using GSM and analog cellular networks," said Nazareno.

He said the company would invest P140 million to P150 million for 1,500 satellite-based payphones this year. About 50 to 100 of these PCOs will be placed in Catanduanes.

New rules issued to prevent manipulation of stock prices

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has issued a set of criteria on how stockbrokers and dealers may avoid involvement in schemes to manipulate stock prices.

While the Philippine Stock Exchange has slapped penalties on brokers executing orders designed to manipulate stock prices, the new securities law and its implementing rules and regulations lack a mechanism to determine the intentions of clients issuing these orders.

In the final version of the implementing rules and regulations for the Securities Regulation Code, the SEC has made brokers accountable for executing orders that violate Section 24 of the new securities law.

Section 24 makes it "unlawful for any person to make a bid or offer or deal in securities if that bid offer or dealing has the effect or is likely to have the effect of creating a false or misleading appearance of active trading in any security." This section also prohibits broker-dealers from executing orders for any person if they are aware or have reasons to suspect that such a person intends to manipulate the stock market.

In considering whether an order violates Section 24 of the Securities Regulation Code, the implementing rules and regulations require broker-dealers to consider the following:

- Whether the order or execution of the order would materially alter the market or the price of the securities;
- The time the order is entered or any instructions concerning the time of entry of the order;
- Whether the person on whose behalf the order is placed or another person who the broker-dealer knows to be a related party of that person may have an interest in creating a false or misleading appearance of active trading in any security,
- Whether the order is accompanied by unusual settlement, delivery or security arrangements;

Eagle Equities Inc. president Joseph Roxas said these criteria should compel brokers and dealers to be more careful in their dealings

"They can no longer make it an excuse that they are just following the orders of their clients," he said.

He said there had already been instances when the Philippine Stock Exchange penalized brokers for executing orders that could lead to manipulative acts. One such case was when All Asia Securities Management Corp. was penalized for doing "marking-the-close" transactions over Swifts Foods Inc.

"All Asia did not want to identify the client which later on turned out to be RFM Corp. and in the end it was All Asia which was penalized even if they said they were merely executing the client's orders," Roxas recalled.

GOLFERS CLUB SHARES, INC.
SEC LICENSE # A 1998-2129
AS OF JANUARY 9, 2001

		SELLING	BUYING
1	ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"	1,000,000	1,550,000
2	ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"	1,550,000	
3	BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	750,000	700,000
4	CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	150,000	
5	CAMP JOHN HAY	400,000	320,000
6	CANLUBANG GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	650,000	
7	CAPITOL HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	850,000	
8	CITY SPORTS CLUB CEBU	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
9	COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	490,000	450,000
10	CLUB FILIPINO	340,000	
11.	EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	250,000	
12	EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	400,000	330,000
13	EVERCREST GOLF CLUB "A"	200,000	
14	FAIRWAYS & BLUEWATER	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
15	FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	300,000	
16	FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	550,000	
17	FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	600,000	
18	MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	500,000	
19	MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	500,000	
20	MANILA GOLF CLUB (CORP)	17,000,000	
21.	MANILA POLO CLUB	2,600,000	
22.	MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	1,000,000	850,000
23	MANILA YACHT CLUB	650,000	
24.	METROPOLITAN CLUB "A"	170,000	
25	METROPOLITAN CLUB "B"	200,000	160,000
26.	MT MALARAYAT GOLF CLUB (IND)	500,000	
27.	MT MALARAYAT GOLF CLUB (CORP)	900,000	
28	ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
29.	ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
30	ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
31.	QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	240,000	
32.	RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	200,000	
33.	RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	600,000	500,000
34	ROYAL NORTHWOODS	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
35	STA ELENA GOLF CLUB		1,000,000
36	SUBIC BAY YACHT CLUB (IND)	500,000	
37	SUBIC BAY YACHT CLUB (CORP)	800,000	
38	TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS INT'L. GOLF CLUB		1,000,000
39.	TAGAYTAY MIDLAND	900,000	
40	VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB	180,000	
41.	VALLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	350,000	
42	WACK WACK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB		7,200,000

ASSIGNMENT OF PLAYING RIGHTS PLS. CALL

JUST S. VIRAY
TRADING MANAGER

LALA SALAO / LYDIA HASEGAWA / FINAS VIRAY
TEL. NOS. 8175655 / 8121066 / 8193560
7517982 PB#150 – 856000

COUNTRY SHARES
As of January 10, 2001

	BUYING	SELLING
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB A	1,600,000	-
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	760,000	765,000
CAMP JOHN HAY	350,000	375,000
CANLUBANG	850,000	900,000
CANYON WOODS	-	Pls. call
CAPITOL HILLS	100,000	125,000
CELEBRITY SPORTS	195,000	215,000
EAGLE RIDGE A/B*/C**	380,000	400,000/500,000*/700,000**
EVERCREST	-	150
FONTANA D/C*/B**	90,000/120,000*	92,500/150,000*280,000**
FOREST HILLS A/B*/C**	-	290,000/420,000*/450,000**
MAKATI SPORTS A/B*	-	450,000/625,000*
MT MALARAYAT A/C (w/lot)*	400,000	425,000/2 6 M*
MANILA GOLF	13 M	15,250,000
MANILA POLO CLUB	2,500,000	2,550,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A/B*	800,000/850,000*	850,000
METROPOLITAN A/B*	100,000/160,000*	165,000
MIMOSA IND./CORP.*	200,000/350 000*	240,000/550,000*
ORCHARD A/C*	300,000/600,000**	330,000/425,000*
PHILIPPINE COLUMBIAN	80,000	85,000
PUERTO AZUL A/B*	-	130,000/Pls. call*
QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	230,000	235,000
RIVIERA A/B*	280 000	310,000/420,000*
ROYALE TAGAYTAY A/B*	120,000	130,000/150,000*
SHERWOOD HILLS A/B*/C**	-	275,000/350,000*/450,000**
STA. ELENA A/B*	1,600,000	1,750,000/2 2M*
TAT FILIPINAS GOLF A/B*	300,000	350,000/550,000*
TAGAYTAY H-LANDS CC	495,000	500,000
TAGAYTAY H-LANDS GOLF	1,050,000	1,100,000
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	850,000	880,000
VALLE VERDE IND.	180,000	190,000
WACK WACK	-	7,500,000

Available Lessors for Playing Rights: Alabang, Calatagan, Camp John Hay, Canlubang, Canyon Woods, Celebrity, Eagleridge, Eastridge, Forest Hills, Makati Sports, Malarayat, Orchard, Rivera, Sta. Elena, Southwoods, Tagaytay H-lands & Midlands, Valley Golf, Wack Wack (low Price), Rockwell Condo. & Others

Need Lessors for Playing Rights: Eastridge B, Punta Fuego, Rockwell, Sherwood B

Selling: Villas, Belleview, Pinecrest & Woodlands in Tagaytay Highlands & Orchard Townhouse (Terms or Rent)

Lots: Eagleridge, Forest Hills, Punta Fuego, Royale Tagaytay & Southwoods

Buying: Riviera lots & Southwoods Phase 2

Please Call Tel. Nos. 853-1626/853-1627; E.C. 141-209888 or 141-256-188

DISCLOSURES

UNIWIDE Holdings Inc. clarified that the Uniwide Group has been implementing strict cost-saving measures since the filing of the petition for debt suspension and rehabilitation in June 1999. It, however, said it would continue to operate its 10 retail stores.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. clarified that the company would not make any offer to acquire a majority stake in GMA Network or Associated Broadcasting Corp.

* * *

THE EXCHANGE said it was considering suspending the trading of the shares of **Guoco Holdings (Philippines) Inc.** on Tuesday, Jan. 16 unless the company complies with the structural reportorial requirements before this date.

* * *

GLOBE Telecom clarified that the reported pleading filed by the Office of the Solicitor General in reply to Globe's appeal to an earlier order of the Court of Appeals has not yet been received by the company and thus cannot comment on the matter.

* * *

C&P Homes Inc. changed its principal address from Pasig, Metro Manila to Las Piñas City, Metro Manila.

* * *

SOLID Group Inc. purchased 21.56 million shares of the company at P0.43 shares on the trading floor last Jan. 8.

* * *

SAN Miguel Corp. said it was open to options that will enable the government to dispose of its 27-percent stake in the company. This, as long as such measures are legally permissible and financially beneficial to its stockholders.

* * *

PHILIPPINE National Bank confirmed reports that the bank proposed the sale to PDIC of its receivables from the government. ***Compiled by Ray Leyesa, PDI Research***

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Tuesday, January 9, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	7.5	8	7.5	8	50,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	59	60	58.5	60	351,800
China Banking Corp.	750	750	750	750	11,000
Chinatrust Comm. Bank	18	18.5	18	18.5	42,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	55	58	55	58	75,900
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	187	193	185	192	92,050
Philippine National Bank	36.5	38.5	36.5	37.5	100,300
Phil. Savings Bank	29.5	30	29.5	30	27,400
Rizal Comm'l Bkg Corp A	20	20	20	20	5,200
Security Bank Corp.	26	26	26	26	9,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	32	34	32	34	35,400
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.58	1.58	1.56	1.56	94,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1330	1345	1295	1345	2,910
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1150	1190	1130	1180	5,030
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	51	51	50	50.5	26,100
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc	.4600	0.47	0.46	0.47	1,040,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	685	700	685	700	490
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.042	0.045	0.042	0.045	8,200,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	340,000
Piltel	0.53	0.56	0.53	0.56	300,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.33	60,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	885	895	885	890	172,970
Ivantage Corp.	0.87	0.9	0.87	0.9	120,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.031	0.035	0.031	0.034	114,200,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	47	48	47	47.5	29,500
Manila Electric Co. B	49.5	52	49.5	52	1,410,000
Petron Corp.	1.26	1.32	1.24	1.3	7,828,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l SV	0.77	0.79	0.77	0.79	200,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc	0 5	0.55	0.43	0.48	2,900,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc	0.4	0.41	0.4	0.4	4,590,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.06	2.06	2.06	2.06	10,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	2.28	2.28	2.28	2.28	20,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	9.7	10	9.7	10	238,000
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	30.5	31.5	30.5	31.5	138,500
Pancake House Inc.	1.64	1.64	1.64	1.64	1,000
Pure Foods Corp. A	95	95	95	95	1,000
Pure Foods Corp. B	90	95	90	95	41,000
Rfm Corp.	0.99	1	0.99	1	380,000
San Miguel Corp. A	49	50	49	50	34,200
San Miguel Corp. B	54	55.5	54	55.5	141,500
Universal Robina Corp	4.6	4 75	4.6	4.75	18,000
Vitarich Corp.	0 41	0 42	0.4	0.4	230,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	10,000
Ayala Corp.	7.3	7.6	7.3	7.6	3,302,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.38	1.42	1.38	1.42	279,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11.5	12	11.5	12	900
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc	0.8	0.82	0.8	0.81	180,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	360,000
APC Group Inc.	0 17	0.17	0.17	0.17	100,000
ATN Holdings Inc	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	10,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	2	2	2	2	23,000
Bacnotan Cons. Indus. Inc	10	12	10	12	12,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	2.95	3.1	2.95	3.05	13,894,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.27	0.28	0.25	0.25	1,280,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	100,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.27	0.31	0.27	0.29	3,320,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	600,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.7	0.75	0.7	0.75	1,200,000
First Phil. Hldgs. Corp	21	22	21	21.75	205,200
Global Equities Inc.	0.33	0.36	0.33	0.36	260,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.23	0.24	0.23	0.24	300,000
Ionics Inc.	14.5	14.75	14.5	14.75	68,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.04	2.12	2.04	2.12	460,000
Keppel Phil. Holdings B	1.04	1.06	1.04	1.04	1,600,000
Macroasia Corp.	2.12	2.2	2.12	2.2	120,000
Megaworld Corp.	0 8	0.83	0.8	0.81	24,850,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.53	0.53	0.5	0.5	1,280,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.59	0.6	0.59	0.6	29,470,000
Solid Group Inc.	0 45	0.48	0.45	0.47	980,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0 33	0 34	0.33	0.34	17,930,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0 36	0 39	0.3	0.34	2,080,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Active Alliance Inc	0 63	0.63	0.63	0.63	30,000
Corro-Coat Inc.	1 42	1.42	1.42	1.42	10,000
Matsushita Elec Phil. Corp	4.00	4	4	4	5,000
Macondray Plastics Inc	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	5,000
Music Corp.	2 95	3	2.9	2.95	532,000
Picop Resources Inc	0.105	0.115	0.105	0.115	1,060,000
Philippine Seven Corp.	7	7	7	7	301,000
SPI Technologies Inc	7 6	7 8	7 6	7.8	279,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER ERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.65	0.68	0.65	0.68	450,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.73	0.81	0.73	0.77	850,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp	0 39	0.42	0.39	0.42	370,000
Philippine Racing Club	3 5	3 5	3 5	3.5	5,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs Corp. (Pdr	50.5	51.5	50.5	51.5	120,600
Ayala Corp. Pref	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	389,000
DMCI Holdings Inc -Pref.	570	570	560	565	550
Equitable PCI Bank-War	2.9	3.15	2.9	3.15	270,000
Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr)	680	700	680	690	3,070
Jollibee Warrants	9.6	9.9	9.6	9.8	65,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0026	0.0028	0.0026	0.0026	38,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series O	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.25	10 25	10.25	10.25	200
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.5	5.8	5.5	5.8	9,589,000
Araneta Properties Inc	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	100,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.205	0.215	0.205	0.215	2,620,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.34	0.37	0.34	0.36	33,390,000
Filinvest Land Inc	1 38	1.48	1.38	1.46	18,632,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.35	0.4	0.35	0.4	470,000
SM Development Corp.	0.8	0.84	0.8	0.82	100,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.9	6.2	5.8	6.2	17,359,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.09	0 09	0.09	0.09	100,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.005	0 005	0.005	0.005	4,000,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc B	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	19,000,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.011	0.015	0.011	0.014	2,800,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0055	0.006	0.0055	0.006	20,000,000
Omico Corp.	0 0034	0.0038	0.0034	0.0038	105,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	1,560,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	1,300,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.02	0.021	0.02	0.021	1,100,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0044	0.0048	0.0044	0.0048	11,000,000
Pacifica	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	10,500,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0 2	0 205	0.2	0.205	100,000

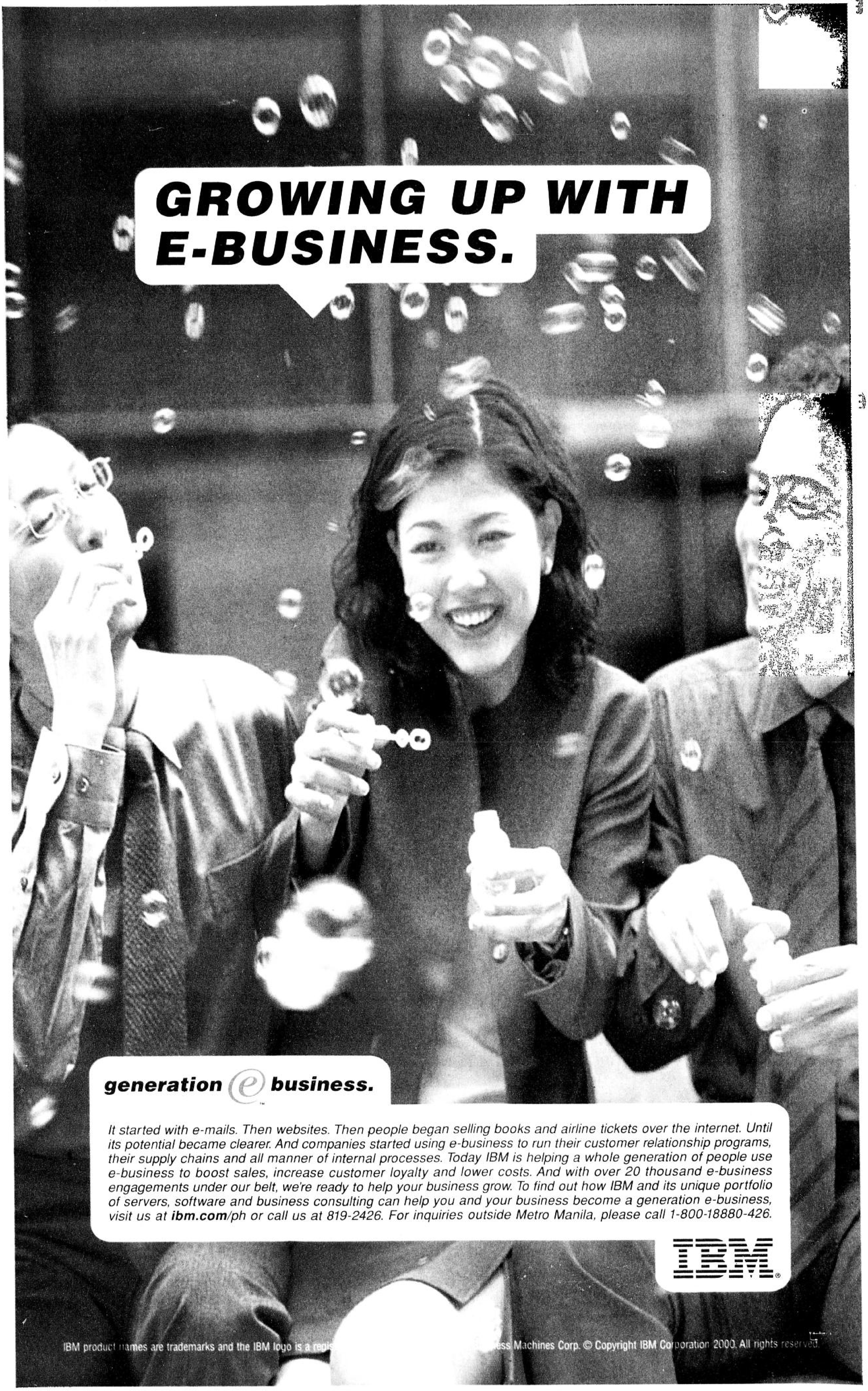
	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	901,990	68,055,420.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	289,690,480	411,351,845.00
PRO	82,360,000	200,488,900.00
Mining	153,660,000	1,355,600.00
OIL	22,700,000	260,000.00
GRAND TOTALS	549,312,470	681,511,765.00

	AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	564.42	UP	16.69
Comm'l & Ind'l	2,134.62	UP	37.56
PRO	542.67	UP	23.50
Mining	1,231.83	UP	5.77
OIL	1.80	UP	0.09
All Shares Index	792.37	UP	11.67
Composite	1,531.82	UP	37.44

NO. OF ADVANCES: 79; NO. OF DECLINES: 14; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 19;
NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 112, NO. OF TRADES: 3,642

CURRENCIES

Jan. 9, 2001 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.054964	1.000000	50.9390
Japan	Yen	0.009101	0.008627	0.4395
United Kingdom	Pound	1.578542	1.496300	76.2200
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.135259	0.128212	6.5310
Switzerland	Franc	0.656235	0.622045	31.6864
Canada	Dollar	0.706417	0.669613	34.1094
Singapore	Dollar	0.603154	0.571730	29.1234
Australia	Dollar	0.597205	0.566091	28.8361
Bahrain	Dinar	2.798461	2.652661	135.1239
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.281271	0.266617	13.5812
Brunei	Dollar	0.608750	0.577034	29.3935
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000112	0.000106	0.0054
Thailand	Baht	0.024574	0.023294	1.1866
UAE	Dirham	0.287260	0.272294	13.8704
Korea	Won	0.000836	0.000792	0.0403
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.947900	48.2851
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.484654	24.6878
France	Franc	0.152450	0.144506	7.3610
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.430138	21.9108
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.068887	3.5090
Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.023498	1.1970
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000490	0.0250
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.159425	8.1210
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004728	0.2408
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005697	0.2902
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024790	0.023498	1.1970
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.203585	61.3094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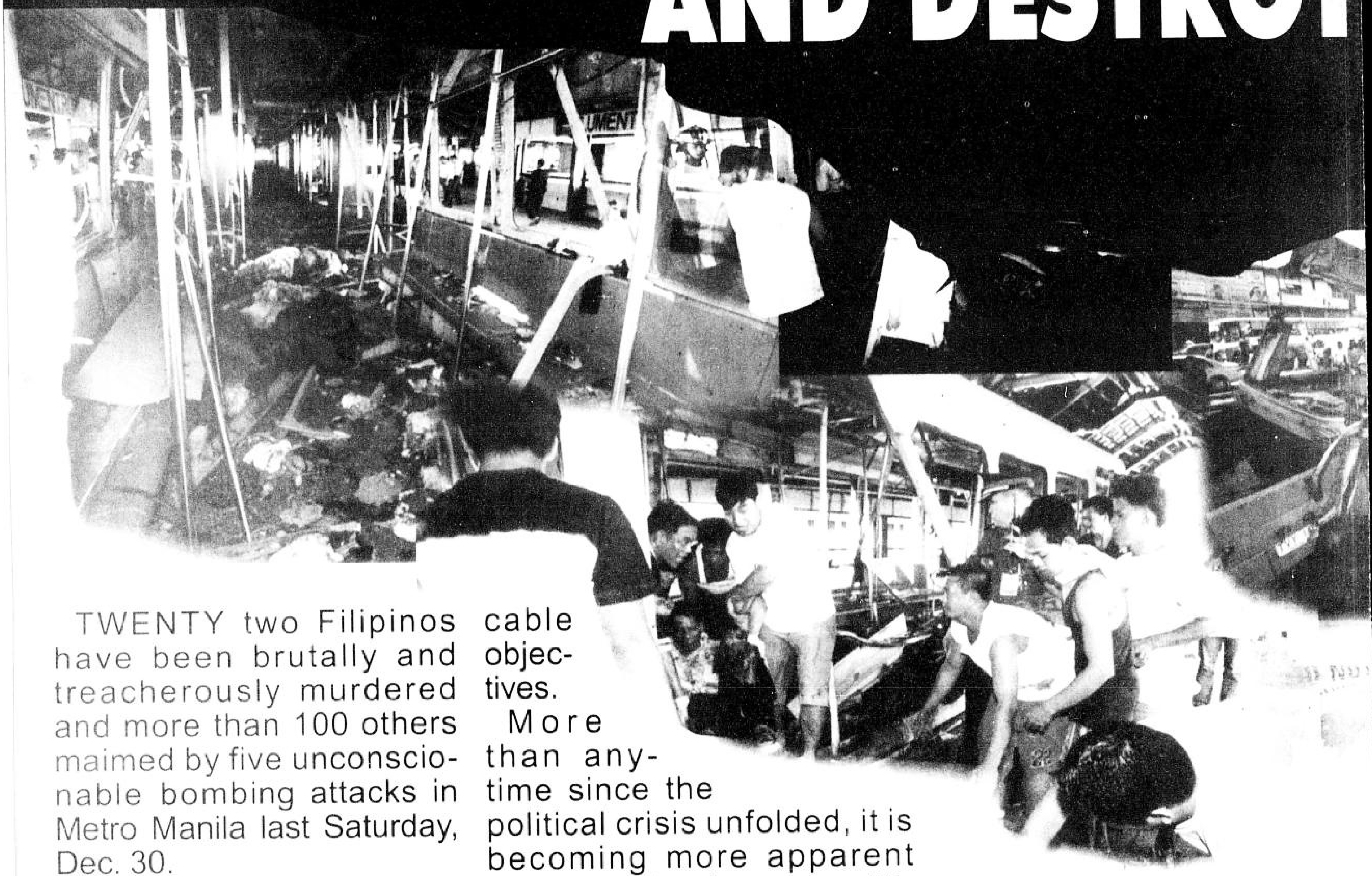
AN URGENT CALL FOR

OPPOSE THE
TO DESTABILIZE T
AND DESTROY



TWENTY two Filipinos have been brutally and treacherously murdered and more than 100 others maimed by five unconscionable bombing attacks in Metro Manila last Saturday, Dec. 30.

The terrorist bombings are the latest in many attacks to destabilize the government and undermine the Estrada administration from Day One.

It has succeeded in delivering telling blows on the economy through disinformation, mass actions and protest demonstrations, work slowdowns, strikes in the business sector and anti-government campaigns in Filipino communities abroad.

The conspiracy which aims to isolate, divide, weaken and ultimately destroy the national leadership has been intensified and accelerated since October. This time, the destabilization plot has gone beyond legal and peaceful means to achieve its despicable objectives.

More than anytime since the political crisis unfolded, it is becoming more apparent that a highly-charged political environment is open to treachery and mass murder as the tragedy that marred the recent holiday season showed.

It is apparent that these power-hungry malefactors have already fast-tracked their ambitious plan to seize political power by engaging in psywar tactics and terrorism to weaken the Filipino people's resolve to preserve, protect and promote our constitutional democracy.

The despicable terrorists wrought death and destruction just to create a climate of fear and anxiety among our people.

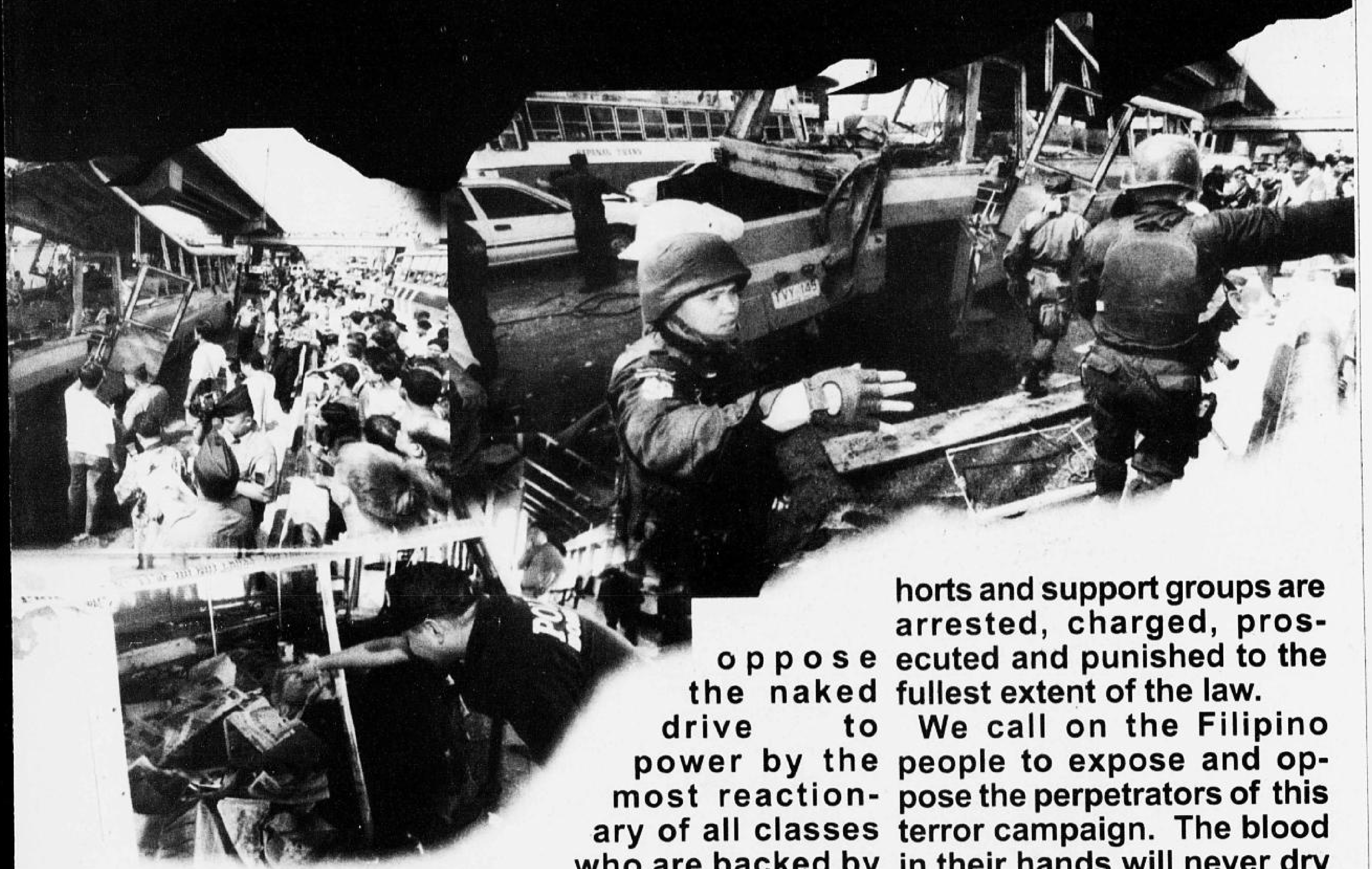
We, majority of the country's local government officials, condemn this conspiracy of destabilization, terror and mass murder that has brought so much pain not only to fatalities and victims of the bombings, but also to millions who have kept silent about their desire for an expeditious, fair and just resolution of the political crisis in our midst.

We are confident that our government is capable of confronting the terror campaign being waged by these blood-thirsty monsters.

Our government, in the exercise of its constitu-

R UNITY AND ACTION

CONSPIRACY
HE GOVERNMENT
THE NATION



tional responsibility to protect the people, is duty bound to expose and destroy the sinister conspiracy behind these terrorist attacks.

We call on the Filipino people to recognize the real enemies within and oppose the naked drive to power by the most reactionary of all classes who are backed by the most corrupt and ruthless of gambling and criminal syndicates, and the most power mad of opportunist politicians.

We call on the government to resolutely pursue all terrorist elements until their ringleaders, cohorts and support groups are arrested, charged, prosecuted and punished to the fullest extent of the law.

We call on the Filipino people to expose and oppose the perpetrators of this terror campaign. The blood in their hands will never dry up until justice is given to all the victims of their terrorist campaigns.

We call on President Joseph Estrada to continue exercising his leadership to protect our people, our Constitution and our democratic way of life.

Oppose disinformation, destabilization and terrorism!
Let us protect our freedom and democratic way of life!

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(1) MALE ACCOUNTING MANAGER

- **Married, between 30 – 35 years old**
- **With at least 3 years supervisory experience in handling finance/accounting matters**
- **Expertise in Audit Functions is a MUST**
- **Willing to travel around the country**
- **Can effectively lead, train, handle, and make people more productive and more efficient**

(4) MALE AREA CREDIT SUPERVISORS

- **Single, between 21 – 27 years old**
- **College Graduate with strong personality**
- **With or without working experience**
- **Can train people, talk/address a group**
- **Willing to travel in Visayas-Mindanao, knowledge of areas' dialects an advantage**
- **Willing for post-assignments in Northern Luzon areas, Cebu, Iloilo, and Davao**

(20) MANAGEMENT TRAINEES

- **Male/Female positions, College Graduate**
- **21 - 35 years old, hardworking**
- **Willing to undergo training**
- **For office work and field assignments**

For those who may see themselves as worthy applicants, send your bio-data thru fax: **(02)8127467** *or* **(02)8127475;** *thru email:* **"elo@i-next.net"**, *thru mail:* **PO Box 4651 Makati Central Post Office, Makati City**; *or personally by hand: c/o The Personnel Manager,* **REGNANT CORPORATION Mezzanine Flr, 122 LPL Mansion, San Agustin St., Salcedo Village, Makati City** *(fronting Makati Sports Club). Qualifiers will be scheduled for interview starting January 16, 2001.*

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- ✓ Single
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- ✓ With or without experience
- ✓ Willing to be trained
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Those who are seeking for a stable job and with good working attitude, please send your comprehensive resumé with recent photo to the following address on or before January 20. 2001

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gtz Philippine-German Technical Cooperation Project
Hospital Equipment Maintenance
in the Government Health System
PN 95.2211.1-001.00
DOH

The federally owned **DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR TECHNISCHE ZUSAMMERBEIT** gtz **GmbH (German Technical Cooperation)** is commissioned by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany to undertake specialist planning and implementation of measures of Technical Cooperation. The gtz is assisting the Department of Health (DOH) in establishing a nationwide Hospital Maintenance System with decentralized Hospital Equipment Maintenance Service Workshops.

One of these **service workshops is in Legaspi City**, with the aim to provide technical assistance, training and perform repair and maintenance of medical equipment of hospitals in Region V, Bicol-Albay, Southern Luzon.

The required staff will be at the beginning for a limited time of up to 12 month-employed by gtz under Philippine Government (Civil Service) rules and regulations for a later take over via the Department of Health (DOH) represented through its Region V Office in Legaspi City.

Selection of personnel and interviews with applicant will be done in a joint Philippine-German Selection board in the **Center for Health Development, Region V in Legaspi City.**

Working place will be in Legaspi City at the compound of Bicol Regional Training and Teaching Hospital in a newly constructed Hospital Equipment Maintenance Service Workshop within the technical assistance program between the Republic of the Philippines and Federal Republic of Germany. The service workshop will be operational approximately November 2001. Selected Staff will be trained in Cebu, Davao, Zamboanga at the respective Service Workshops.

Applicants (Male of Female) must be willing to travel with public transport to all kind of Government Hospitals, Health Centers in cities and rural areas within Region V, Bicol- Albay, Islands of Mindoro, Romblon, Masbate, Marinduque, Catanduanes. During the training in Visayas and Mindanao.

If an applicant is taken under contract for the training he/she must acknowledge to work for at least three years (36 months) at the HMS Service Workshop in Legaspi City.

The following staff is needed for the Legaspi Service Workshop

One (1) Engineer IV (Head of Division/Section) Salary Grade 22. Level 2, Bachelor's degree in Electrical or Electronic Engineering relevant to the job, preferable with the Master degree in Management or any Masteral degree relevant to the job, requested for this unit which will be established as a division/section, 3-5 years of relevant experience preferable in the field of Hospital Equipment Maintenance, minimum of 16 hours of Job relevant training RA 1080 Eligibility requirement.

One (1) Engineer III (Head of Workshop) Salary Grade 19. Level 2, Bachelors degree in Engineering relevant to the job (Electrical/Electronic) minimum of two years relevant experience, 8 hours of relevant training. RA 1080 Eligibility requirement.

One (1) Electronic and Communication Technician or Medical Equipment Technician III. Salary Grade 11 with Bachelor's degree relevant to the job, 3 years experience, 6 hours relevant training, Career Service (Professional) Appropriate Eligibility for Second Level Position

One (1) Electronic and Communication Technician or Medical Equipment Technician II. Salary Grade 8. Completion of at least two years experience, 4 hours relevant training. Career Service (Subprofessional) Appropriate Eligibility for first level Position

Two (2) Electronic and Communication Technician or Medical Equipment Technician I. Salary Grade 6. Completion of at least two years experience, 4 hours relevant training, Career Service (Sub-professional). Appropriate Eligibility for first level Position

One (1) Mechanic I. Salary Grade 4 High School graduate, completion of vocational training/trade course.

One (1) Secretary/Clerk III. Salary Grade 6. Completion of two year studies in college. Minimum of five-year relevant experience in all kind of secretarial work, accounting major, expressed to work with computer knowledge in working with Microsoft Windows, Microsoft Office, Excel, Power Point. Position will require overtime

One (1) Driver I or II. Salary Grade 3/4. Elementary School graduate. Graduate with valid professional driver's license, at least 5 years experience driving in Bicol-Albay Region, Southern Luzon and mainly Legaspi City and surroundings.

One (1) Utility Worker Salary Grade II

Working place will be in the compound of Bicol Training and Teaching Hospital in Legaspi City.

Interested applicants may send their detailed application with 2 x 2 color photo, copies of certificate of employment and training, not later than February 07, 2001 to:

GTZ-HMS
C/o Hospital Maintenance Service Mindanao
P.O. Box 80815
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A Multinational Garment Company urgently needs the following:

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HRD ASSISTANT - Must be AB Psychology or Management graduate, 22-30 years old, with at least 1 year work experience, preferably HR work; trainable; with good communication skills/patient.

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SEWING INSTRUCTRESS/TRAINOR - Female, 28-35 years old, at least college level. With sewing teaching experience for at least 3 years; with sewing experience for at least 8 years; can handle all types of sewing machine; with good communication skills; patient and persevering.

AIRCON MAINTENANCE - Male, 20-35 years old, technical graduate or equivalent experience. Will maintain all air conditioning units and responsible for trouble shooting and periodic check-up.

ISO CLERK - Female, 23-30 years old, a university graduate preferably Office Administration, knowledge in PC an advantage; hardworking, independent, self-motivated; with 1-2 years experience in clerical works; experience in ISO 9000 implementation an advantage.

Interested parties may apply personally to:

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PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

Meycauayan-Filipinas Pawnshop, Aliw Complex, Calvario, Meyc. Bulacan. All unredeemed pledges of July 2000 will be auctioned on January 19, 2001, 8:30am. *Lanuza & Sons - Auctioneer.*

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INQUIRER TRiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Rats

Q. Where did rats come from?

A. Rats originally came from eastern Asia but thrived under the influence of man and spread to infest most ancient civilizations. However, before 1727 the world was plagued only by black rats but then hordes of a new larger brown rat suddenly spread from Russia and wiped out all their cousins. There are now no black rats left except in the tropics where the brown rat is unsuited. The difficulty of getting rid of rats is partly due to their high reproductive rate. Females normally have about five litters of up to 23 babies each year. This means that a population will quickly recover even if 95 percent have been exterminated. One pair of rats could have 350 million descendants in three years if they *all* survived.

For the Record. One reason why rats are so frequently used (second only to mice) in research is that will eat any human food. Researchers have found that fresh fruit, meat and peanut butter are their favorite foods, and that cheese is relatively unattractive. However, rats will eat almost anything. And for all the death and destruction it has caused through the centuries, the rat does have one redeeming value. No one knows how many human lives have been saved by drugs developed and tested on laboratory rats and by surgical procedures tried first on rats.

***What's the Difference?* Hunger/Appetite/Craving.** *Hunger* is a compelling desire to have food (or, by extension, anything else), but it's still something that's under control. *Appetite* also suggests moderation: a desire, fondness, or inclination to eat — or, again, to have anything. As for *craving*, that's to desire something eagerly, even irrationally, be it food or attention.

WORD WATCH

Lafang: Tagalog slang for 'food,' from the Tagalog *lapang*, 'a big piece or hunk of meat."

PDI – January 10, 2001

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REZ GOPEZ-SINDAC, Editor

1.5M first grade pupils to receive gift of good vision from Rotary Philippines

FEBRUARY 14, 2001 has been scheduled by Rotary Philippines for the administration of vitamin A capsules (200,000 IU) to 1.5 million grade one pupils all over the country.

Rotary International past director (RIPD) Rafael "Paing" Hechanova, chair of the national management committee of the Philippine Rotary Vitamin A Project said that the objective of the program is to create awareness and improve knowledge, practices and attitudes about the importance of vitamin A to one's health. "Rotary International has approved 3-H Grant 98-20 with a funding of $250,000 specifically for this project due to the alarming results of recent studies conducted by WHO that there are now an estimated 250 million children in developing countries suffering from vitamin A deficiency (VAD)," Hechanova added. Past District governor (PDG) Charles Katze of District 7230 of New York has added $25,000 to this initial fund as foreign counterpart.

Rotarians in all ten districts in the Philippines have been mobilized to implement this project which consists of two components: Supplementation, which is the actual giving of the vitamin A capsules twice a year to our grade one pupils; and educating the greatest number of people, especially the parents, about the importance of vitamin A through advocacy and information campaign.

Vitamin A is an essential nutrient needed by the body for developing normal eyesight. Deficiency may lead to night blindness or "matang manok," Bitot's Spot characterized by foamy, soapsud-like spots on the conjunctiva (white part of the eye); corneal ulcer, a crater-like defect in the cornea, and keratomalacia or softened, sometimes bulging cornea. VAD may also lead to skin disorders and may increase susceptibility to infection.

Vitamin A is best found in yellow fruits and vegetables like ripe mangoes, papaya, tiesa, squash and melon and in green leafy vegetables like malunggay, ampalaya, camote tops, kangkong, petsay and saluyot. Other good sources are liver and organ meats, milk and milk products, tahong, clams and other shellfish, eggs, squid, tilapia and dilis.

The Philippine Rotary Vitamin A Project was launched by First Lady Dr. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito Estrada on July 21, 2000 at the Aurora A. Quezon Elementary School in San Andres Bukid, Manila.

AIR PHIL APPOINTS GSA IN KUWAIT

Air Philipppines (AP) represented by its president and CEO/COO, Capt. Rogelio Narciso (center) signs contract with Caesars Travel Co. Inc. represented by Ghazi Al Abdul Razaak (second from left) and P.N.J. Kumar (second from right) director and general manager respectively, as their passenger general sales agent (GSA) in Kuwait, during a simple ceremony held at the Air Philippines Executive House at the Domestic Airport, Pasay City. With them are Air Phil executives Mila Limgenco, senior vice president for sales and marketing (left) and Erlinda Santiago, senior assistant vice president for marketing and sales.

CO-BRANDING AGREEMENT

Equitable CardNetwork Inc. (ECN) recently entered into a co-branding agreement with DevCap Asia Card Services Inc. to come up with Pinoykard, a Visa credit card that aims to serve the nation's military and police communities. Present at the signing are (from left) Nelia Carlos, ECN senior vice president and treasurer; Eugenio Hernando, ECN senior executive vice president; Meliton Salazar Jr., DevCap president; and Peter Perfecto, DevCap Asia COO.

JAYCEES INDUCTION OF OFFICERS

The Angono "Ace" Jaycees, Inc. will hold their induction of officers for JY 2000-2001on Jan. 14, 2001, 7 p.m. at the Covered Court Bloomingdale Subd., Angono, Rizal. Oscar Orbos co-host of "Debate" will be the guest of honor and speaker. The charter officers are the following, (standing from left) directors: JC Alfred D. Galo, JC Ian C. Vocalan, JC Jr. B. Villamarin, JC Cromwell P. Reyes; (seated from left) JC Babes M. Mingao, JC Lani Mendiola-Cancio, JC Chicklet Reyes-Galo, JC Cyrus Tiamson Sualog, (not in picture) JC Junvic U. Saguinsin, JC Lito C. Fuentes and JC Joel B. Bongat.

Insam sets seminar on Hepa-B

INSAM Corporation, the Philippine exclusive distributor of Cheong-Kwan-Jang Korean Red Ginseng will conduct a free seminar on Hepatitis B including its remedies and prevention on Jan. 13, 2 p.m. at GF Tatlong Hari Bldg., Almanza, Las Piñas City and on Jan. 20, 1:30 p.m. at Royal Mandaya Hotel, Davao City.

Dr. Maximo Axibal Jr., Insam medical director will conduct the seminar which is expected to enlighten people regarding Hepatitis B. Dr. Axibal explained that the said disease is usually transmitted by injection, but can also be transmitted sexually.

Persons at high risk for this liver inflammation disease includes intravenous-drug abusers, homosexuals, hemophiliacs, persons who received blood transfusion and medical and dental personnel.

He added that chronic active hepatitis, with symptoms including spidery lesions, striated skin markings, acne and abnormal hair growth, may later predispose an individual to cirrhosis and often lead to fatalities due to failure of liver cells. For inquiries, call 806-6272 or (082) 222-7399.

SINULOG BAZAAR 2001

The 2nd Sinulog Export Overruns and Consumer Bazaar 2001 is scheduled at the SM City Cebu Trade Hall from Jan. 12-31. The fair coincides with the world-famous Sinulog Festival, Cebu's biggest annual event. Organized by L.A. Ducut & Company Inc. (LADCI), the bazaar is intended to be a unique experience for Sinulog visitors and revelers as a showroom of shopping convenience for world-class items at reasonable prices. Signing the memorandum of agreement are (from left) Marites Neis, SM City Cebu Trade Hall manager and Lilibeth D. Abais, LADCI managing director. Witnessing are (from left) Mayen Fortuna, SM Cebu Trade Hall assistant; and Marilou Limon, LADCI project assistant for sales. For inquiries, contact the LADCI Manila liaison office at 873-1198 and 873-8202; Cebu office at (032) 232-3729 and 232-3740.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PEA TOLLWAY CORPORATION (PEATC)
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Roxas Blvd., Parañaque City

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE OF ASSORTED SCRAP MATERIALS LOCATED AT PEA TOLLWAY COMPOUND, SAN DIONISIO, PARAÑAQUE CITY.

"AS IS WHERE IS"

Item No.	Qty.	Unit	Unit Weight (Kgs/pc)	Total Weight (Kgs)	Description
1		rolls		6,950	Electrical cables, various sizes (22mm² Ø, 32mm² Ø, 38mm² Ø, 50mm² Ø)
2	776	Pcs.	45	34,920	Galvanized steel guardians (3.80mm x 500mm x 4.13m)
3	213	Pcs.	28	5,964	Galvanized steel guardrailposts (3.80mm x 150mm x 1.85m)
4	217	Pcs.	5	1,085	Galvanized steel guardrail spacer (3.80mm x 150mm x 500m)
5	1	Ea			Paper Copier, Toshiba 2540 Tricom Dynamics (as is)
6	32	Pcs.			Used Rubber tires, assortes sizes
7	24	gal.			Industrial liquid floor wax

NOTES:

1. Unit costs for items 1, 2 and 3 shall be per kilogram.
2. All items shall be picked-up at site.

Invitation is open to all Filipino firms, companies or individuals with the Financial Capability.

Sealed bids shall be submitted to: The CHAIRMAN, Committee on Disposal, PEA Tollway Corporation, G/F, Bayview International Tower III, Roxas Boulevard, Parañaque City, Metro Manila not later than 2:00 p.m. on **January 22, 2001**.

PEATC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any formality therein and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is the most advantageous to the Corporation. PEATC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or losses that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

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To the family and friends of the late

BENITO "Benny" LAO

at the age of 65
Born: November 4, 1935
Died: January 5, 2001

His dearest wife **MARTINA**; children **CONSTANTINE** and **MELY**, **CRISPIAN** and **FAY**, **CHRISTOPHER**, **ELIZABETH** and **TONY**, and **EVANGELINE**; grandchildren **RYAN CHRISTOPHER**, **YZABELLE NICOLE**, **MICHAELA ANTOINETTE**, **NADINE ANGELINE**, **CATHERINE STEPHANIE**, **CARLOS MIGUEL**, **JOAQUIN RAFAEL**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.
His remains lie in state at the Chapel A-1 and A-2, La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.
Interment will be on January 13, 2001, 1:00 PM at Eternal Garden Memorial Park, Baesa, Caloocan City.

EUFEMIA "FE" CACHOLA BALDONADO

Peacefully joined our Lord on January 8, 2001 at the age of 89.

Her beloved children and in-laws **Jose "Jun"** and **Caring**, **Evelyn** and **Roland**, **Naty** and **Germs**, **Jean** and **Rene**, and **Willy** and **Emily**; grandchildren and in-laws **Charlie** and **Claire**, **Boy** and **Alie**, **Clint** and **Leila**, **Deo** and **Ycar**, **Angge**, **Jojo** and **Lilymae**, **Roel** and **Raquel**, **Allan** and **Peach**, **Minmin**, **Faye**, **Germaine**, **Marlon** and **Jenny**, **Rey**, **Ryan**, **JonJon**, **William** and **Mela**, and **Omar** and **Joy**; and great grandchildren **Inggo**, **Jego**, **Se-Ann**, **Bea**, **Andoy**, **Alaine**, **Jolo**, **Jared**, **Johann**, **Niobe**, **Niky**, **Miggy**, **Isar**, **Danica**, **Mark**, **Alex**, and **Oriz**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Holy Trinity Chapel Loyola, Marikina.

Interment will be announced later.

MESSAGE OF THANKS

We, the family of the late

Ana C. Tuazon

of San Fernando, Pampanga

who joined her Creator on January 3, 2001
at the age of 80

wish to convey our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who, by way of their presence, prayers, thoughts, flowers, notes of sympathy, and extension of support, showed love and concern, offered solace and comfort and in many countless ways, condoled with us in our moment of grief.

We know that God raised the Lord jesus from death.
He willraise us to life with Jesus. He will present us,
along with you, to God."
2 Corinthians 4:14

Virginia Arboliras Arban

Peacefully joined our Lord on January 7, 2001 at the age of 82.

Her bereaved husband **CRISANTO**; children **VIRGILIO** (✝), **RONNIE & BABY**, **ODETTE & BANNY**, **JOHSSEL & TESS**, **SOCORRO** (✝), **CRIS & LITA**, and **NANETTE & ED**; grandchildren and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Our Lady of Fatima Parish (Philam Village, Las Piñas City).

Interment will be on Saturday, January 13, 2001 at Manila Memorial - Sucat, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

I am
the way,
the truth
and
the life.
No one
comes
to the
Father
except
through
Me.
John 14:6

JOSE "SEQUI" DE SEQUERA Y FORTUN

Died in the Grace of our Lord on January 5, 2001
at the age of 68, in Sydney, Australia.

His loving children **Amalita** and **Raffy Atayde**, **Mariles** and **Artit Lastrilla**, **Maripaz** and **Sean Laughlin**, and **Jose Mari** together with his grandchildren **Cristina**, **Robie**, **Camila**, **Daniel** and **Connor**; and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Cremation was held in Sydney, Australia.

A Requiem Mass will be celebrated on Friday, January 12, 2001 at 5:30 PM at the lower chapel of the St. James the Great Parish, Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa City.

CORAZON B. JIMENEZ

of Lingayen, Pangasinan

Died in the Grace of our Lord
on January 6, 2001 at the age of 89.

Her bereaved children **Jing & Mendy**, **Oniong & Fe**, **Baby & Dodoy**, **Boy & Ludy**, **Nardz & Zeny**, grandchildren, great grandchildren, relatives and friends request for prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at their residence at No. 39 Avenida Rizal West, Lingayen, Pangasinan

Interment will be on Saturday, January 13, 2001, after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral of the Three Kings Epiphany of Our Lord Parish.

IGNACIA ROXAS ACHURRA VDA. DE CHUA

Peacefully joined her Creator on January 8, 2001
at the age of 83.

Her loving sister **Luz**; children **Tony** and **Carmen**, **Ninfa**, **Sonia** and **Ed**, **Gilda**, **Virgilio** and **Yolly**, **Rudy**, **Marilu** and **Glen**, **Nestor** and **Connie**, and **Myrna** and **Fred**; grandchildren, great grandchildren and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Prudential Funeral Homes, 1125-1131 A. Maceda Street, near corner Dapitan, Sampaloc, Manila. Interment will be announced later.

"For God so loved
the world, that
He gave His only
begotten Son, that
whoever believes
in Him shall not
perish but have
everlasting life."
John 3:16

IN PRECIOUS MEMORY
ON THE FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

MA. DEL CARMEN "COTY" F. MARTINEZ

January 10, 2000

Masses will be offered today, January 10, 2001, at the following churches

ST. ALPHONSUS DE LIGUORI, Makati City	6:15, 7:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m
CHAPEL OF THE LILLIES, Cubao, Quezon City	6:15 a.m.
MARY THE QUEEN PARISH, San Juan, Metro Manila	6:00, 7:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m
REDEMPTORIST CHURCH, Baclaran	5:30 a.m.
STO. NINO CHAPEL, New Manila, Quezon City	6:30 a.m.
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH Makati City	6:15, 7:30 a.m., 12:15 nn, 6:00 p.m.
SHRINE OF JESUS, THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE, Reclamation Area, Pasay City	5:30 p.m
ST. FRANCIS PARISH, Mandaluyong City	6:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m
ST. JOHN BOSCO PARISH, Makati City	6:30, 7:30 a.m 12:15 nn, 6:00 p.m.

Her family requests relatives and friends to remember her with prayers

"My journey is over now, I rest in peace of God, my Father into your hands, dear Lord I commend my soul thy will be done."

CONRADO D. LEGARDA

Died in the grace of our Lord on January 8, 2001
at the age of 87.

His loving wife **RAMONA**; children **ROLANDO** and **LINDA**, **NARCISA**, **VICTOR**, **AIDA** and **ROY**, **LITO** and **BABY**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to join us in our prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Inc., 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, January 13, 2001 at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Arlington Memorial Chapel

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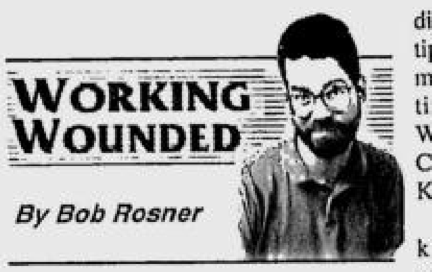
How do you deal with politics at work?



By Bob Rosner

I JUST got passed over for a promotion in favor of a brown-nosing self-promoter. I spend my time working, rather than playing politics, but apparently that doesn't matter anymore. Is it possible to get ahead without sucking up?

Nose to the grindstone

Here's a poll for you: according to US News & World Report, only 67 percent of people are certain that heaven exists, but 87 percent believe they're going to go there. Hmmm . . . Kind of reminds me of politics at work. According to my mail, at least 67 percent of people hate the glad-handing, favor-trading way that lots of decisions get made—but 87 percent think politics are fine, thank you, as long as they get their own little slice of heaven. I guess in politics, as in heaven, you can have it both ways.

Whatever your belief about it, though, politics is a fact of office life—so you might as well get used to it. As with cholesterol, there are "good" politics (garnering support for a proposal before you present it to your boss) and "bad" politics (brown-nosing). The goal is to see how much of the "good" kind you can squeeze into your work diet. Here are some tips from Jeff Bellman, author of Getting Things Done When You're Not in Charge (Berrett Koehler, 1992):

1. Can you acknowledge the positive role that politics plays at work? "Good" politics means "schmoozing" with people in other departments to gain useful information, or helping out a colleague in need. Politics doesn't have to be unfair or harmful.

2. How do the effective people in your company play the game? Who practices "good" politics in your company while avoiding the "bad?" Watch those people and learn their moves.

3. Do you know what you will and won't do? My brother (who is a pretty ethical guy) told me once that he had a "personal policy" about what he would and wouldn't do when it came to playing politics at work. He'd thought through various scenarios to establish his ethical boundaries. Try that yourself. Imagine scenarios in which political concerns arise (for example: a co-worker plies you for information that you're not supposed to give, or you want a raise and you know a certain person can influence the decision).

Decide how you'd react in each case to find a level of politics that feels comfortable.

4. Do you plan for the political consequences of your work? It's fair to say that your work will always be judged by two criteria: quality and politics.

So get real: plan for both. Garner the political support you'll need to get your work the attention it deserves.

The U.S. News & World Report poll also found that while 87 percent of people thought they were bound for heaven, only 18 percent thought their friends would meet them there. I guess now we know why they say it's lonely at the top.

Here are the results of the recent workingwounded.com poll: What is the best way to get ahead in your company?

* Keep nose to the wind (to sniff out latest trends), 23 percent

* Keep nose to the grindstone, 36 percent

* Keep nose brown, 40 percent

Our contest winner emailed us from Australia. Andy from Kincumber wrote, "I meet 'em at their own game-head on. If you're undermining someone, always do it with a smile. In fact, I do everything with a smile, it confuses the heck out of everybody."

(Send feedback to peopleatwork@-inquirer.com.ph.*)*

Desperate mother, activist daughter

By Tita D. Puangco

Advice
FOR THE
ANXIOUS PERSON
AT WORK

I WAS very much impressed by the way you analyze problems. Please advise me on a problem that is bothering me very much. Although I am not employed like other people at work, I could still benefit from your advice and thorough analysis. I am a desperate mother and direly in need of advice.

It is about my 19-year-old daughter. She is involved in activism. She is a leader in an organization with leftist leanings. She decided that she does not need to enroll anymore and that she should devote her time to activism, rallies, information campaigns, etc. For the past three semesters, she failed to attend her classes. We have been urging her to finish a degree but to no avail. This semester, we sent her to the province hoping that distancing herself from her group might make her change her mind and listen to us, her parents instead. However, she still insists on going back to Manila. She even gave us a veiled threat that she may run away if we don't give her the ticket for her trip back to Manila.

What am I supposed to do? Her line of thinking is "she should not be selfish just thinking of herself when there are more people in need of her services, specially informing them about the injustice of the present system and finishing a degree is not necessary for this kind of vocation."

Please help me. I have resorted to prayers too but I want to exhaust all possible avenues.

Desperate Mother

You work as a housewife at home. And so, you are still part of the audience for our advice column for people at work. Personally, I feel that the unsung workers at home have never been recognized justly by society because their labor is not reflected in visible economic measures.

I was very touched by your letter. Being a mother, I cannot help but empathize with you. I know that as a mother we only want the best for our children. Unfortunately, the best education we can give may be viewed very differently by our children.

Detachment

I also realize that the best that can be done given this situation where your views differ is to love your daughter without limits to the point of setting aside your views and opinions and to try to see the situation from her viewpoint. You and your husband can give her advice, it is your moral and parental duty to do so, but at the same time you have to exercise your duty with a certain level of emotional detachment.

Why? Mainly, because while a child comes from her mother's womb, a child has a life separate from her mother. Children, especially when they reach eighteen years of age, have the capability to weigh situations and make their own decisions. We cannot live their lives for them. I am not saying that she is right and you are wrong. I am not the judge of your family situation. But I ask you to be patient since this is a very important learning phase for your daughter. What she needs now is a listening and supportive ear. You may not agree, but I think it is better to bend rather than break unity. Most parents I know, who have built dreams around their children, often feel guilty when their children drop out of school and they blame themselves for what is happening. This should not be the case, unless there is clear neglect, which is not true in your case.

Education

Let us also explore our concept of education. Traditionally, during the times of the Greek philosophers, education was based on real life experience and critical discourse. People did not have to go to school to get an education. You may have to view education in a more holistic way I myself was an activist in the late sixties, a period that coincided with the first quarter storm. Looking back, I can say that what I learned rallying for causes out in the streets was as weighty as the learnings inside the classroom. Lessons I learned were the art of organizing and leading, the ability to think critically about situation and events, a great passion to alleviate the plight of the poor, a great love for our country and a strong sense of personal sacrifice.

These lessons created the spark that urges me today to manage my business enterprise with caring, optimism and social responsibility. I remember very clearly the no nonsense conversation that I had with my late father when, with much respect, he listened to my outpourings of wanting "to change the world and the system." His wise advice still rings in my ear, "I respect your views and decision, but every action has consequences. Be ready to take responsibility for both the positive and negative consequences of your actions." He also explained that we were seven children in the family. If I fail in any of my courses, he and my mom would no longer be able to support me. So, I continued to be active in rallies but deep in the night I would study for exams and go to school mainly for the exams.

Freedom

Today, I have met parents who give their children the freedom and space to think through what they truly want to get from life. This means being open to also allowing them to lose a year or so out of school. I know there are risks here. For those who decide to pursue school at a future time, they become more responsible, diligent and committed students. All of us have our own life journeys, we take different routes towards different destinations

In my opinion, your daughter should not miss these very challenging times. This is an exciting learning period where people need to have an opinion and get involved—not to be fence sitters banished in a far away province. Even some school administrators are of the opinion that a rally can in fact be an educational event.

Mainstream

You talk about the dangers of the leftist movement. In my view, their proactively articulating their views is all part of the democratic process. Gone is the cold war when the world was divided into communist and capitalist states. At that time, leftist labels scared people. Today, I note the fact that some of them have gotten involved in government and are performing rather creditably. They have also registered as a political party—giving us hope that they are now joining the political mainstream and may eventually give up violence as a means to achieve power.

While I believe that a capitalist system is still the better system because it respects human dignity and rights, I deplore as well the evils of liberal capitalism. Liberal capitalism has resulted in a culture of greed, a culture of having—it has increased the gap between the rich and the poor resulting in poverty and injustice A free enterprise system that encourages social responsibility, where capitalists convert and transform themselves to be more sharing and helping especially of the under privileged is what we need. If we can only concretize the social teachings of the Church, then we can emerge a better nation and society.

STEPH BRAVO

We need the rich and the elite not simply to march in the street and give token respect to the idea of social justice, but to concretely create the structures to uplift the poor in a sustained way.

Finally, I agree with you, when all things fail, pray. Let us pray constantly. What is impossible for men is not impossible for God. Prayer will allow us to listen to that tiny voice of the will of God within us that will tell us what to do. I assure you of my own prayer and best wishes. Take care of yourself.

(The author is founder and president of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Comments and requests for advice on work-related problems may be sent to email address ancillaedc@pacific.net.ph *or fax number 892-2902.)*

The best gifts touch the soul

RECIPES*for* LEARNING

By Moje Ramos-Aquino

WHAT is the best gift you received this Christmas, from whom, and why? What is the best gift you gave this Christmas, to whom, and why? Do you notice that the best gifts and cards you receive and give are those that touch the soul? They are neither necessarily expensive nor trendy. It is at times like now that people are more thoughtful about their gifts. Truly, adversity is the mother of creativity and originality.

Have you seen the movie, *"Tanging Yaman?"* When you see it, bring a bucket to catch your tears. It reminds me of a favorite Christmas story, "Brotherly House" by Grace Richmond. Both are simple, yet poignant and stirring. Always, always, a child brings peace and harmony to warring grown-ups. One lesson that both stories show is that let's keep Christmas 365 days a year. Let us always make the Child the center of our lives. He works in many mysterious ways to make us better persons and whole families

SWOT analysis

To capture the spirit of Christmas within yourself, and in the many aspects of your life like your family, career, social and others, let's plan it.

First, I will presume that you have done your self-analysis from the two previous lessons of our Workshop on Setting Goals, Objectives and Action Plans. Also, I presume that you now have a long list of your personal strengths and weaknesses, and possible opportunities and threats (SWOT). Review your SWOT with your planning team. Make corrections and additions. Notice that some of your strengths are also your weaknesses. Ditto with some of your opportunities that come with some obvious or veiled threats and threats that are enveloped in glistening opportunities, if we look at them a second time. Let us take a cue from Thomas Carlyle who said, "The greatest of faults…is to be conscious of none."

Let us say that you will plan for the next five years of your life. That is what you call your planning horizon. Given a five-year timeframe, let us summarize your SWOT into five or six biggest strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. Given your long list and your limited resources, you could not possibly address all your SWOT in five years' time. Even if you are the richest man in the world with bank accounts here, there and everywhere in everybody's name, you can not do everything that you want to do because your resources will always be limited in terms of time, space, money, information, machine, method and manpower. So please summarize or pick only the most important SWOT that you need to attend to in order for you to be closer to your dream future.

Life issues

You will note that your SWOT are somehow related. Sometimes, one weakness leads to another and then another, etc. Try to work back and trace the root of your SWOT and you will be able to limit them to only five or six unrelated ones that you will call your Critical Life Issues. Another technique is to ask the question "why?" six times and, I can tell that the answer to your sixth "why?" is the root. These Critical Life Issues are also most likely your most pressing needs in order to bridge the gap between your personal vision and mission and you are now.

Done? Don't proceed unless you have finished the first instructions here. I know this takes time, lots of thinking and listening, serious discussions and prioritizing.

When you are ready, the next step is to convert your five or six Critical Life Issues into your Big Goals for the next five years, your planning horizon. For example, if one of your weaknesses is lack of educational qualifications, your Big Goal in order to achieve your Personal Vision and Mission in the next five years is "To become a full-pledged engineer in the year 2006." or "To finish a two-year Computer Technology Course in 2004." Why 2004 and not 2003? Because you need to save enough money for your tuition and other school expenses before you enroll in the schoolyear 2002 to graduate in 2004. But that is jumping into the next step too soon.

Big goals

Right now, just concentrate on your Critical Life Issues and convert them into your Big Goals within your planning horizon. This should give you three to six Big Goals that are focused and results-oriented. They should be big, as in big enough to require big effort, time and others from you, and not something that you could achieve in only one simple step. For example, "To enroll in a computer engineering course" is not a Big Goal. These Big Goals should, likewise be achievable either incrementally or by quantum leap. Some may seem to be unrealistic at this time because you seem not to have the requisite resources to fulfill them. Don't worry. Your next steps will take care of that. This time you are not just dreaming. You have factual and/or logical bases for your goals.

These are enough ideas for you to ponder and work on until next Wednesday. Remember what William Shakespeare said: "Be not afraid of greatness; some men are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them." Most of us belong to the "some achieve greatness" group and, therefore, we need to plan and work harder.

Random thoughts

I am happy to have two of my friends and respected colleagues at the helm of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) this 2001. Congratulations to the new president, Federico R. Marquez, Jr., vice president and group HR of Guoco Holdings (Philippines), Inc.; and vice president, Ernesto Espinosa, director of HRD and General Affairs of Fujitsu Computer Products of the Philippines. May I share with you, Freddie and Ernie, two of my favorite quotes on being a leader. One is from US President Dwight Eisenhower who said, "You do not lead by hitting people on the head—that's assault, not leadership." The other is from Gen. Jan Christian Smuts and it goes, "It is no use passing judgements and making scapegoats of this or that individual or group." Add to that what Algernon Sidney once said, "Liars ought to have good memories."

Salute

I salute our non-lawyer senators who are able to ferret out the truth by simply asking layman questions at the impeachment trial. Take a bow, Hon. Loren Leviste Legarda and Hon. Rodolfo Biazon. Likewise, my admiration goes to quick-witted and levelheaded senators, Hon. Franklin Drilon and Hon. Raul Roco. This reminds me of the words of poet and novelist Edgar Allan Poe: "Experience has shown, and a true philosophy will always show, that a vast, perhaps the larger, portion of the truth arises from the seemingly irrelevant." Keep glued to the Trial of the Century and pray for our country.

(Send feedback to moje.ramos@aquino.zzn.com.*)*

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PEOPLE at WORK

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ REGINA GALANG REYES, Subsection Editor

Bringing Philippine-made training to SEA

By Cecile G. Garcia

CAREER*Tales*

TRAINING consultant Catherine Palma represents the emerging global Filipino professional, who though Philippine based, also taps markets outside of the Philippines, addresses professional concerns not only of Filipinos but also of other nationalities working in the Philippines, and looks to the world for her own professional development.

She has just returned from Taiwan where she and two of her staff conducted a workshop for the Caesar Park Resort. They handle workshops in other Southeast Asian countries as well. "Our methodology is quite non-traditional. There are less lectures and more 'discovery' activities, which foster better relationships in the workplace among employees and their superiors," says Palma, who periodically attends seminars and workshops in HK and the US. "I pick up techniques from trainors and improve on these," she adds.

Program for expatriates

Last year, Palma launched Treasures of the Orient, a program which focuses on expatriates residing in the Philippines. "It is designed to assist incoming and incumbent experts and to enable them to cope with relocation quickly and effectively," she explains. In particular, it provides support for spouses of expatriates who are often left to fend for themselves while their husbands and busy working.

The program also offers a one-day workshop for expatriates and Filipinos who work with them. "It aims to help cross-cultural teams better understand each other and use cultural differences to their advantage," says Palma. "Overall, we would like expats to gain a new perspective and respect for the Filipino who is often stereotyped." The program, Palma footnotes, is an indirect way of helping Philippine trade and tourism.

PALMA believes in going the extra mile.

Palma has been in the training profession for a long time. Before putting up International Customer Management Systems (ICMS), her own company in 1989, Palma worked for eight years as a training and development specialist for Philippine Airlines.

"I decided to go into training consultancy full-blast because at that time, there was a growing need for experts in the field," says Palma, who is president of ICMS. According to her, the ICMS group, which is small but efficient by any standard, brings a combination of human resources and marketing, which is at the core of practically every company's requirements.

Palma, incidentally, took up education at UP, where she taught prior to her job at PAL.

Behavioral skills

Palma contends that a practitioner in consultancy needs to have a background in psychology "with focus on behavioral skills." In addition, he must have the ability to listen non-judgmentally and to analyze issues. He must be able to think strategically and to keep the relationship with client both business-like and personal. He must never allow himself to be intimidated by the client nor to get involved in organizational politics. "Also, I believe in going the extra mile. Aside from excellent service, this is one way of maintaining clients," says Palma. "It is also an effective ad. You need not advertise because word of a good reputation and professionalism goes around."

It was from her mentors, Dante Santos, former PAL president, and Edna Franco, also of PAL and a pioneer in training consultancy, that Palma learned the value of excellence. Whether it is Client Satisfaction Research, HR Systems Development or Team-Building, she applies the same stringent principle. "Mr. Santos used to say, 'always leave a job better than when you found it,'" recounts Palma. "Edna taught me that you have no business doing anything unless you can do it excellently."

People problems

Her job, which Palma finds deeply rewarding, basically involves people. "When a client comes to us, usually the problem in the workplace is people-oriented. Maybe they're not talking to each other, there is in-fighting or the morale is low. The end result is always to build a team that can work together," remarked Palma. Based on an intensive needs analysis, which includes interviews, they come up with a customized training program. The entire preparation takes two weeks, while the workshop is from two to three days. Palma's modest firm, by the way, has an impressive list of clients. Among them are Meralco, Citibank, Coca-Cola and IBM, Phils.

But regardless of hard work and good intentions, all a training consultant can do is assist. "If the client is not willing to do what he's supposed to do, if he's uncooperative, then it can be very frustrating for us," acknowledges Palma. Getting people—clients—to cooperate is, in fact, a major challenge. "Application back in the job may not always be easy but unless it's carried out, we can't say we've really succeeded," declares the consultant.

Refresher courses

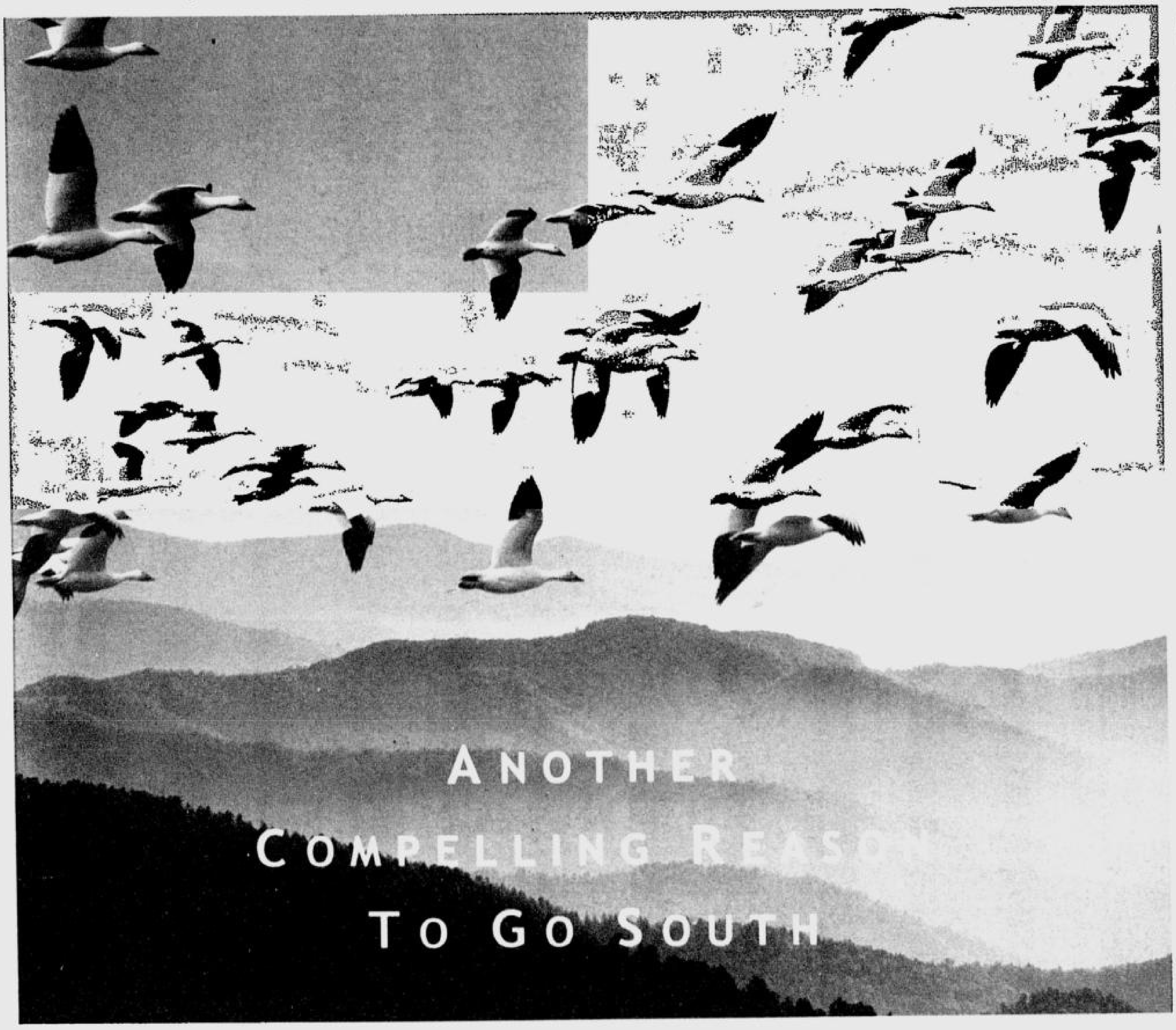
Palma passes on to her staff the lessons, the bits of wisdom she has learned along the way. "I encourage closeness among us. I listen to their problems. I get involved," she says, referring to her staff composed of 10 dynamic individuals. who once belonged to the corporate world. Although every one of them has a field of expertise. all are qualified to do each other's job if necessary. "Ideally, we have a yearly refresher workshops. I encourage them to do this on their own," says Palma, who recently attended a conference of the American Society for Training and Developmet held in Laguna Beach, Los Angeles.

Nurturer

Like her mentor and friend, Edna Franco, Palma is task-oriented yet underneath that is a strong maternal instinct, which makes her a nurturing and caring person. She says it was Franco who made her see what a potent combination this was "In the workplace or anywhere else for that matter, you should be able to make your peers and subordinates feel nurtured, while at the same time. you try extract the best from them," allows Palma.

Ten years from now, she sees herself still doing training consultancy. But more important, "I see myself as a better mother, somebody who has raised her children to be good and morally upright individuals," she avers.

Palma believes in living life as meaningfully as possible—both as a career person and as a wife and mother (she has been married for 17 years). She declares, "Life is short and every moment is precious. I believe in going beyond ourselves and our self-contained realms. I believe in reaching out and giving back as a way of thanking God for our blessings."



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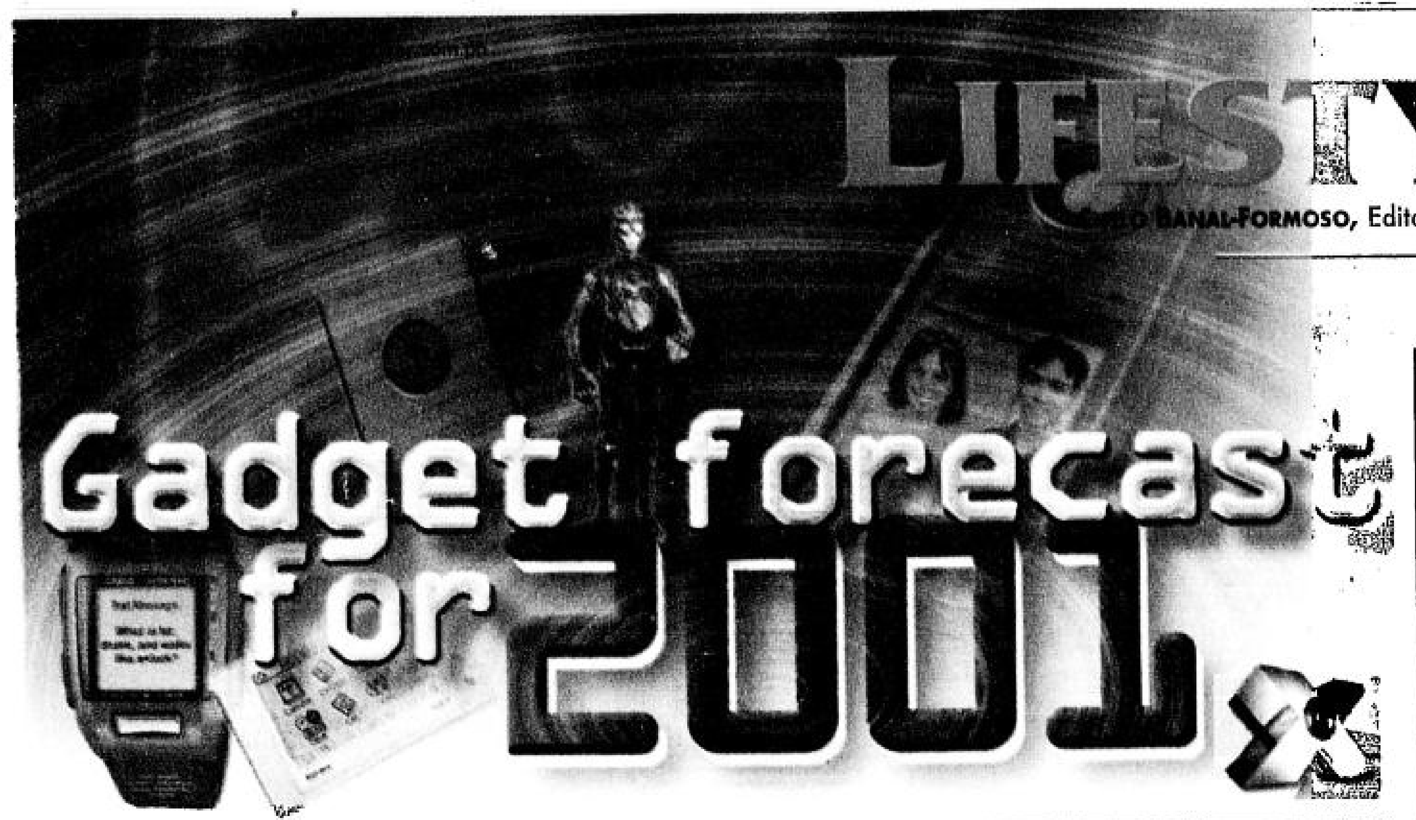


Gadget forecast for 2001

By Ike Sulat

WHAT cool gadgets will we be seeing in 2001? Will it be another season of mind-boggling wizardry or a year of disappointing rehashes of old technology?

I wish I knew for sure, especially since tech companies are obsessively secretive of what their scientists and engineers come up with. Besides, if we really knew what the future holds for us, that would take out some of the fun, wouldn't it?

Phone - PC Watch
CASIO
Text Message:
What is fat, drunk, and walks like a duck?
TEXT my wrist, baby.

Here are some crazy predictions on what gadgets might become commercially available in 2001, along with what the corporations actually have in store for us. I hope that Wells, Asimov and Clarke agree with my prognostications, but what I'm sure about is that when you hold that great gadget in your hand, you'll say: "High-tech!"

The X

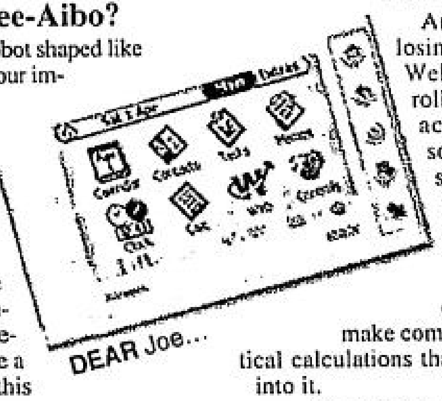
In 2001, Microsoft is going to play with video games giants Sony, Nintendo and Sega by releasing their own gaming console, the Xbox.

Literally looking like an X, the X-box's hardware includes a 733 MHz CPU, 64 MB memory and 256 audio channels. The Xbox is poised to take hardcore video gamers by storm if the notoriously late Microsoft actually delivers in the second quarter of 2001. Visit www.xbox.com for more details.

YOU can now take pictures with your cell phone.

See-three-pee-Aibo?

The concept of a robot shaped like a human has captured our imagination for a long time, the most popular of them being George Lucas' "Star Wars" character, C3PO. Sony released Aibo, the robo-dog machine wonder, so can a humanoid robot be far behind? Maybe we'll see a working prototype this year.

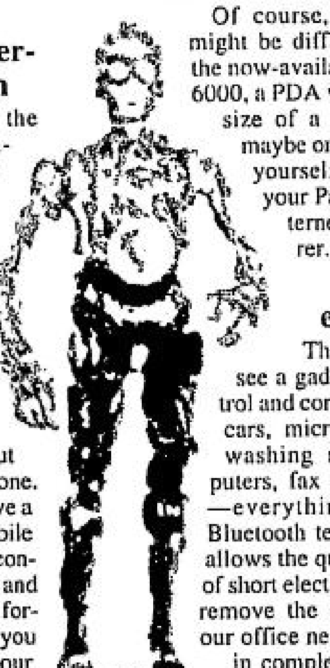


DEAR Joe...

A personal computer-phone-wristwatch

Casio already delivered the MP3 wristwatch and the wristwatch camera. This year, I'm betting they will come up with a wristwatch where you can type a text document, which can either become a text or e-mail message. I won't be surprised if they also manage to squeeze in Microsoft Word on my wrist.

Also in 2001, you might hear a ring tone somewhere, but it won't be on your cellular phone. That's because you already have a WAP-capable wristwatch mobile phone that also contains 1,000 contacts, a scheduler, a calculator and multi-language options. Don't forget your hands-free kit though, you will look crazy talking to your wrist all the time.



CAN you send a message to Lord Vader?

The ultimate MP3 player/converter

So you can rip CDs, and convert the songs into MP3 files? Big deal. This year, we might see an MP3 player that can record FM/AM feeds, and convert them into MP3 files. It might even have some programming, so you won't miss your favorite radio program.

Camera-Internet mobile phone

You can now take pictures with a wristwatch, so why not with a cell phone? And while the phone companies are at it, we might be able to watch AVI or MPEG files on our phones, or maybe get real audio and video feeds using WAP technology. Maybe then we can also trade video messages instead of just exchanging phone graphics and ring tones. This will be more possible with General Packet Radio Service, or GPRS technology, which is already in place GPRS enables data throughout rates up to an astonishing 115 kilobits per second, which can also give you ideas about a cam-phone where you can also see each other live, besides talking to each other.

Just imagine yourself wincing inside a bus while watching the Impeachment Trial, until it's rudely interrupted by a video message. You curse; the message is another Erap video joke.

Voice-command PDA

Are you tired of losing your stylus? Well, they might roll out the voice-activated personal digital assistant this year, which can also convert dictation into word documents, and make complex mathematical calculations that you whisper into it.

Of course, those features might be difficult to fit in to the now-available Xircom Rex 6000, a PDA which is only the size of a credit card, but maybe one day you'll find yourself saying this to your Palm Voice I: "Internet please, Inquirer.net."

Control everything

This year, we might see a gadget that can control and connect together our cars, microwaves, phones, washing machines, computers, fax machines, PDAs —everything electronic. Bluetooth technology, which allows the quick transmission of short electronic signals, will remove the clunky cables in our office network, and put us in complete control of our electronic surroundings. So if there's food in the oven burning up, your

GADGET/ p.C3

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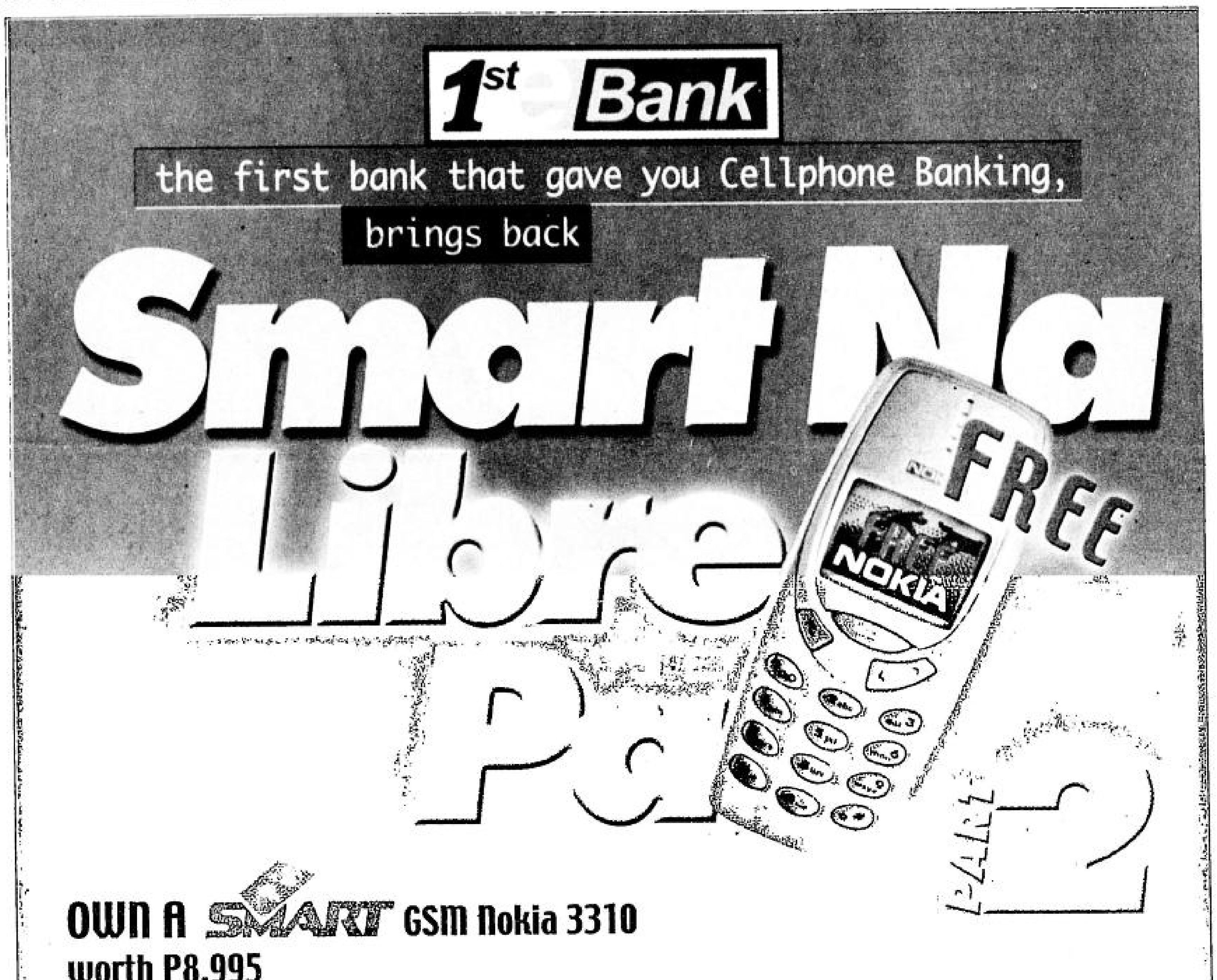

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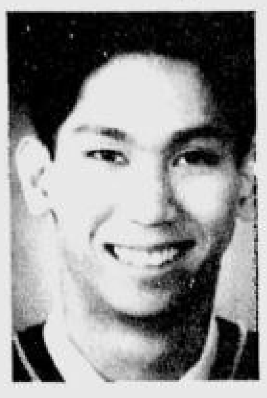


ROY Rufino H. Felipe, chief executive officer for Mp3manila.com, has been into computers since he was 10. When the Internet first became available to Filipinos in Manila, the now graduating senior at the Ateneo de Manila University had the chance to learn HTML and started to make webpages for himself. He started freelance work as a Web developer/designer when he was a high school sophomore. "At first, I used Dreamweaver. Now, I prefer to lay the structure down using that program. I fine-tune my work with manual hard coding." Right in the middle of 2000, he refocused himself as a Web SVG (scalable vector graphics) developer.

This 21-year-old usually comes up with his designs/concepts either early in the morning while having coffee or late at night just before going to bed. His suggestions:

- Go against the flow. The best designs are usually the unique ones. Try not to adhere too much to people's expectations. In the same way that people start hating the song they hear on the radio every five minutes, people hate seeing the same designs over and over again.
- Sometimes your clients will not agree with your output. Give the client what he/she wants, but at the same time, justify to the client why your output is such. If he/she doesn't budge, you can't do anything about that. After all, the customer is always right.
- Use all available resources. Don't limit yourself to the materials that your client provides.
- Be open to criticism. Use them to your advantage.
- Never say "I am good." The moment you say that, you stop your growth as a designer/developer.
- Learn. Technology changes so fast. Keep up with the changes. There is no need to enroll yourself in any class. You can learn things by yourself.
- Diversify. You may focus on a specific technology but try to know the other technologies as well. If you niche yourself in third generation site development, know things about WAP, e-commerce, etc.
- Never believe that you can do things on your own. Other people can contribute other skills to your projects.
- Never engage in projects that do not interest you. Just because a client is willing to pay X-amount does not mean that you should take the project.
- Never be satisfied with mediocrity. Your output is not output if you didn't give it 110 percent.

Learning from the Web gurus

ONE of the best things about the Internet is it has broken age barriers. It doesn't matter if you're a bent 70-year-old or a pesky 12-year-old. If you can make a swell site, then there's a place for you on the World Wide Web. No wonder more and more young people have been getting themselves connected. If e-mail, chatting and surfing don't seem to cut it for you anymore, it's probably about time you take the plunge. Why don't you create your own site? There are no limitations – it can be about anything you want. To help you get started, 2bU! has asked help from people who have been basking in Internet glory. Here are tips from young people who took the risk and came out with successful results (the visitors to their site can attest to that):

LEARNING/ p.C5

TWENTY-FIVE-YEAR-OLD Bernard Eric Magale, or Skilla to friends, graduated from the Vancouver Film School. He started to make websites in 1996, after all the 3D studios and animation houses rejected him, or so he claims. His personal website, Skilla.com, has received several awards—Perfect Site of the Day, Coolhomepages Award, Cool Stop award and the NEM 5 flash award. His legomedia.com won the silver New Media Clio. He uses Photoshop 6, Flash 5, Illustrator 8 and Dreamweaver 4 in building sites and considers his environment and lifestyle as his sources of inspiration. His tips:

- Have fun.
- Patience and practice are important.
- Learn your tools, including their pros and cons.
- Look at other places for inspiration. Don't rely on just surfing and seeing what's "cool" on the Web.
- Don't spend too much time on the computer. Write down your ideas on paper. Talk to other people.
- Accept criticism.
- Don't follow the latest design trends.
- Express yourself.
- Get some exercise.
- Design smart, not fast.

JOSEPH Enrico Ebreo, a graduate of UP Diliman, claims he had no choice but to start making websites. "It's my job." He started just a year ago. He uses Flash, Dreamweaver and Adobe Image Ready and claims to have been influenced by Kobe Bryant. His site, My Web (http://www. vm-online.com/myweb), bagged the award for the Best Personal Website in the Philippine Webby Awards in 2000. Jeck said, "I motivate myself through different mediums—like watching a movie, reading a book, listening to music. I even dance when I feel like it."

- Try to have an open mind in terms of design. Do not constrict yourself to old traditions and rules.
- Expose yourself to different art forms.
- Surf the Internet for good websites.
- Do not copy! Take what you think is cool and tweak it.
- Lessen your intake of pearl shakes.
- Try to keep your website design clean, minimize your color combination, have consistency.
- Watch those cool MTV interfaces and "Sesame Steet."
- Try to learn other programs that will enhance your Web skills.
- Try to get a life—spend time with your family, visit your friends, date someone you really like, etc.
- Get some cool sneakers.

"PLEASE don't call me a webmaster!" Natalia Diaz said. The 24-year-old Ateneo de Manila University graduate is the communications manager of k2 Interactive. She takes care of the company's creative content department, conceptualizing, writing and editing content for websites and other interactive media. Her first taste of writing for websites was with Localvibe.com. She has written for numerous other sites including Musicmanila.com, MyAyala.com and Eguide.com since. "I like seeing how good ideas get executed online," she said. She is inspired by Umberto Eco, Magritte and her lava lamp.

- It all starts with a good idea.
- Crazy can be cool! Don't be limited by people who think your ideas are too wild or impossible—enjoy the challenge. (They used to think a round world was a crazy idea.)
- Linear thinking is for the Dark Ages (or at least the pre-Internet era).
- Never lose your lust for reading. Read, read, read—it's always a source of good ideas and inspiration.
- Keep surfing—make it a habit to take mental notes of great sites and check them out.
- Enjoy conversations with people—another great source of ideas. One of the quotes stuck on a Post-It on my desk is from the Tomato Interactive website—"Ideas come from conversation and these ideas are formed in any media as an appropriate response."
- And finally—celebrate nerd-dom! Those people you picked on in high school for being too cerebral will eventually either work for you, or have delusions that you were actually friends.

JOSE Illenberger graduated from the UP College of Fine Arts. Two years ago, Berger, who says he's a "Photoshop-Imageready-Illustrator-Dreamweaver-kind of guy," started making websites (he began with Geocities) because he wanted to see his name in the search engines. He claims to be most proud of his site, www.redberger.com. This site has received awards from design portals likewww.coolhomepages.com, www.netdiver.net and www.coolstop.com. He is inspired by "a bottle of Coke, M&Ms and a lot of imagination."

- HTML (Hyper Text Markup Language) is the root of all good and evil. Study it and learn it by heart. Once you're confident about editing your own code, you can now have the license to use WYSIWYG (what you see is what you get). HTML editors like Dreamweaver, Golive and Frontpage, although fast and efficient, produces tons of code which are not necessary. This is where your code editing skills should kick in. If you are conscious about what other Web builders will think about your work, think code. Think clean code.
- You have to define what the end goal of your site will be. Is it to promote yourself? What things about yourself would you want everybody to know? This should be clearly defined and should be used as the basis of what your site will be.
- Keep in mind that consistency in your design in all the pages of your website will help your visitors navigate your site. Make their navigation a breeze and they will show you their gratitude by visiting your site often.
- Content is king. Whether your website is about yourself and your hobbies or a business site, or an online portfolio like mine, you must always strive to make it more interesting. Do not waste your visitor's time. Remember that surfers have short attention spans.
- Don't use annoying animated gifs. If you do use them, use it correctly and subtly. Animated gifs take longer to download.
- Don't use frames unless you know what you are doing. Frames create problems when users want to print your page.
- Optimize your graphics. Remember, the more color you use, the heavier the loading time will be. Use Web-safe colors. Visit http://www.webreference.com/dev/graphics/ to know more about it. Splicing up your graphics also helps. You can do this using by using Adobe Image Ready, which comes free with Photoshop.
- Once you've finished building your site, check, recheck and recheck. Try to check your pages using different screen resolutions and different browsers. Will it work at 640 x 480? How does it look at 1024 x 700? Will my codes work fine when I view my site on Netscape Navigator? It is important to know this because different computers have different monitor resolution settings and different persons prefer different browsers. Look for grammatical errors, unnecessary codings, heavy loading graphics. Take them all off.
- The best way to learn good design is by looking at good examples. A good resource for this is www.coolhome pages.com. Ask yourself the following questions: What makes this site appealing? How fast did it load? How effective is its site navigation? What will make me visit this site again? You can also join online mailing lists and organizations. In the Philippines, you can try joining www.philweavers.net, an online organization of html/Web design-crazed weirdos. You can get tons of tips there.
- When you finally get your site done, update, update, update. Without updates, there won't be any reason for people to go back to your site again and again.

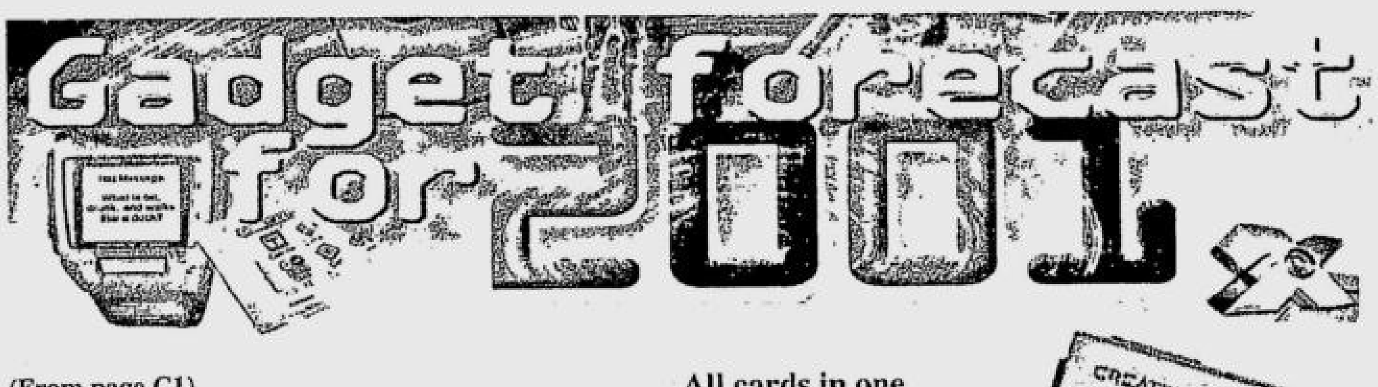
MATTHEW Andrew P. Yngson, who studies at the College of St. Benilde, has created so many websites since 1996 that he can't remember them all. His biggest project is his company's website, www.iskul.org where he is the co-webmaster. He is also Web consultant for their sister site, PinoyStudent.com. Matt is a regular member of the International Webmasters Association (www.iwanet.org) and is in the process of receiving his certification as an International Web Site Designer. He is also one of the youngest members of the prestigious Philippine Computer Society.

Matt said, "In creating a website, [you] must remember your audience is the world and every character counts. Here are my personal guidelines in creating a website. I personally like creating simple and straightforward sites as compared to flashy, fully animated, heavy loading sites. If you're armed with the basic knowledge of computers, then making websites will be easy for you. If you can use MS Word, websites won't be hard! In fact you can even make one using just MS Word."

- Plan your site! Making a website entails planning. The site plan must include things like what you will put on the site and where, color schemes you prefer, theme of your website, type of audience, etc. then gather these information and be ready to put them all together. It helps to check out other websites to see what else you can do with yours.
- Knowing is half the battle! The next thing you need to do is to understand the language of the Internet. Know the abbreviations and other jargon. Try to learn and understand some HTML or Hypertext Markup Language, it is what websites are made of. Of course, you need not know everything and do things from scratch. There are numerous HTML Editors you can download on the Internet that are either free or shareware that you can use. These programs have templates which you can use to make your website. The National Center for Supercomputing Applications has a comprehensive site on HTML for beginners. (http://www.ncsa.uiuc.edu/General/Internet/WWW/HTMLPrimerAll.html)
- Content is king! Your site will be useless if you will have the same information forever. A website must be dynamic, information should be changed on a regular basis. Have a timetable, add info, more links, pictures, stories and do some minor editing once in a while so people would want to come back to your site.
- Less is more! Less waiting time mean more visitors. One of the things you must always remember is that the faster that your website loads, more people can visit it. According to studies, the normal waiting time for a website to load is from 30-45 seconds only. In our country where the speed of the Internet is still slow, the smaller the file size, the easier for the website to download. It's wise to hold the large pictures, instead use thumbnails or smaller pics. Graphics are okay but too much of it will make the site load forever.

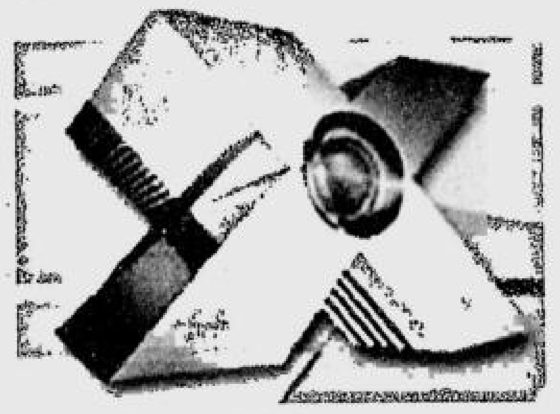
- Multilingual. Being a Web designer means your website must be available to all types of systems. It should work with browsers both old and new. Many designers like to use frames but they often forget that websites that use frames load longer. Others like to use animations such as Flash or Shockwave, forgetting that not all have the software for this to work. Universality means your site should not appear nice on one browser and ugly on the other. Test your site always. An inconsiderate site will have less visitors.
- We're not Indiana Jones! The most common mistake among Filipino designers is that they tend to take website navigation lightly. The biggest turn off for a visitor is having a hard time going around your website like looking for a needle in a haystack. When they get lost, they won't end up looking for the page they are looking for; instead they'll end up on somebody else's website. Make sure you label your pages properly and if possible, add a site map.
- Respect. The Internet is the largest unregulated medium to date but this does not mean we will not follow rules online. Many designers tend to "steal" or "copy" other people's works. Imagine surfing and you land on a site that has the same content and looks exactly like yours without giving you credit at all. Won't you feel violated?
- Spice up your site! People will want to go back if your site is interactive. By adding things like a guest book, chat room, sound clips, even offer free e-mail, etc., you can create your own online community. You can use services such as MultiCity.com and Bravenet.com.
- Kiss and tell. Once you're done with your site, then it's time to tell everyone about it! Start off with informing your family and close friends, and then everybody else. Friends with websites also can link your site and vice versa. You can also promote your site to major search engines like Yehey.com or Yahoo. This is free and it helps encourage visitors to go to your site. This task not only promotes your website but you receive feedback regarding your site which you can use later on.
- Revise. Implement the feedback and just keep on going and going. Learn from your mistakes.

Gadget forecast for 2001



(From page C1)

brother's PC games are too loud, or you simply have to turn off the lights, Bluetooth can possibly solve all that with one press of a button.

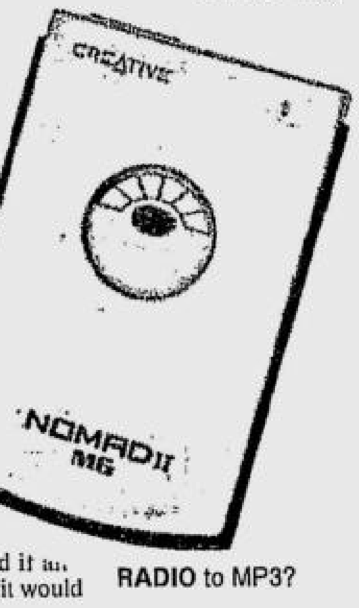


CAN the Xbox beat PS2?

All cards in one

Last year, we've seen the launch of cards that aim to make our lives more convenient than a credit card. Smart, BPI and Mondex have released prepaid pay-everything cards that allow us to make transactions that will not bury us in debt.

While the hoopla and hype were achieved late last year, the user base of those cards remains in doubt. This is the make or break year for those cards, and we might see additional features integrated with their purchase capabilities. In addition to payment, we might be able to use those cards as IDs in schools and libraries, or as driver's licens and health cards, and maybe a purpose entrance tickets to the MR concerts, PBA games and other events. And if all those things were possible in one card, man, it would be a pain to lose it.



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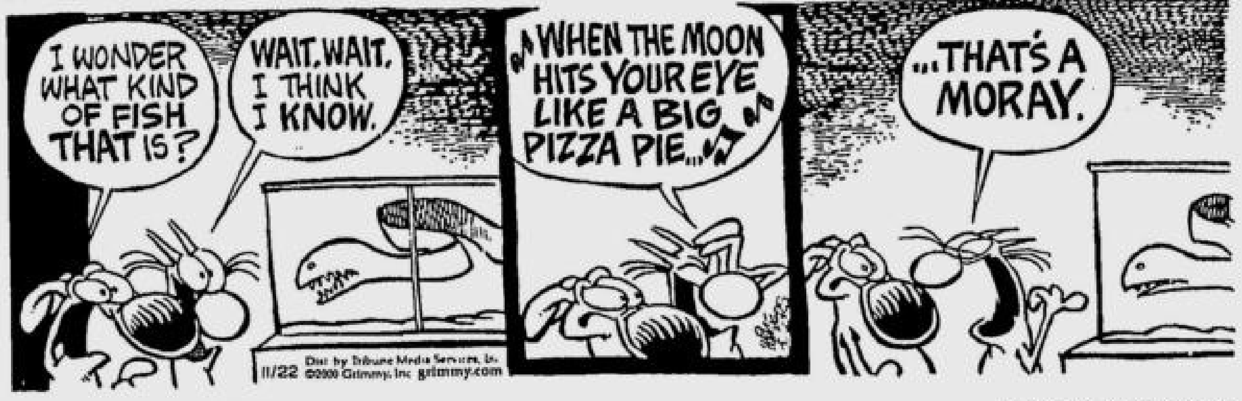
I WONDER WHAT KIND OF FISH THAT IS?
WAIT. WAIT. I THINK I KNOW.
♪ WHEN THE MOON HITS YOUR EYE LIKE A BIG PIZZA PIE... ♪
...THAT'S A MORAY.
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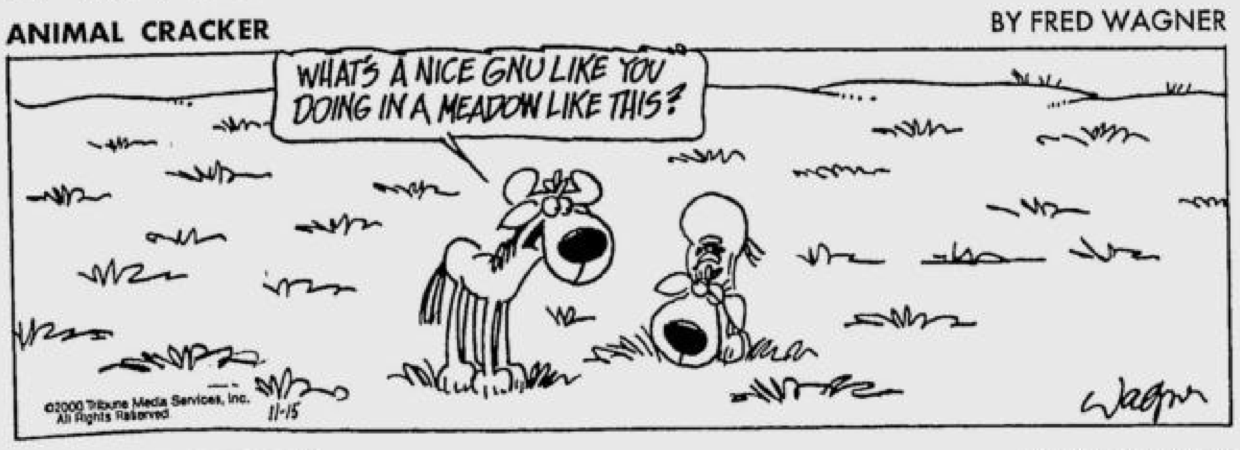
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER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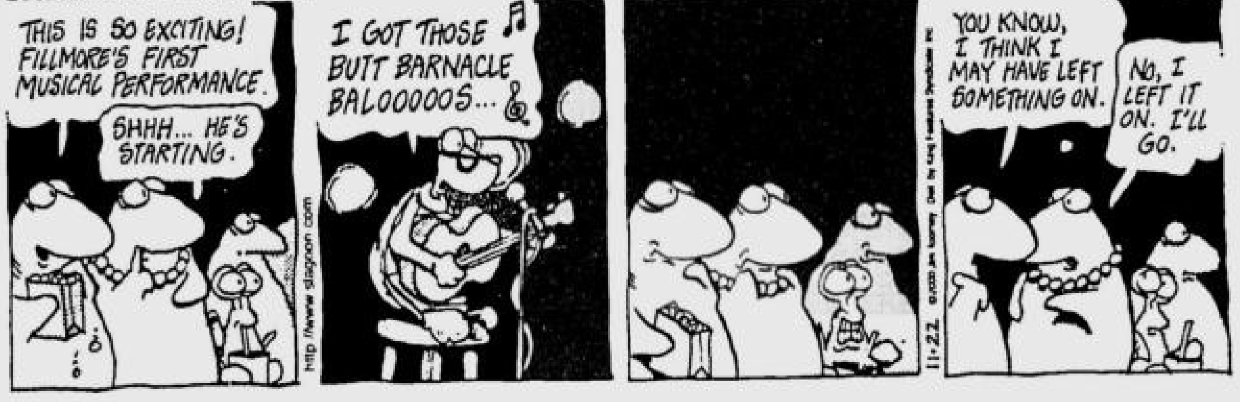
11-15
Wagner

SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY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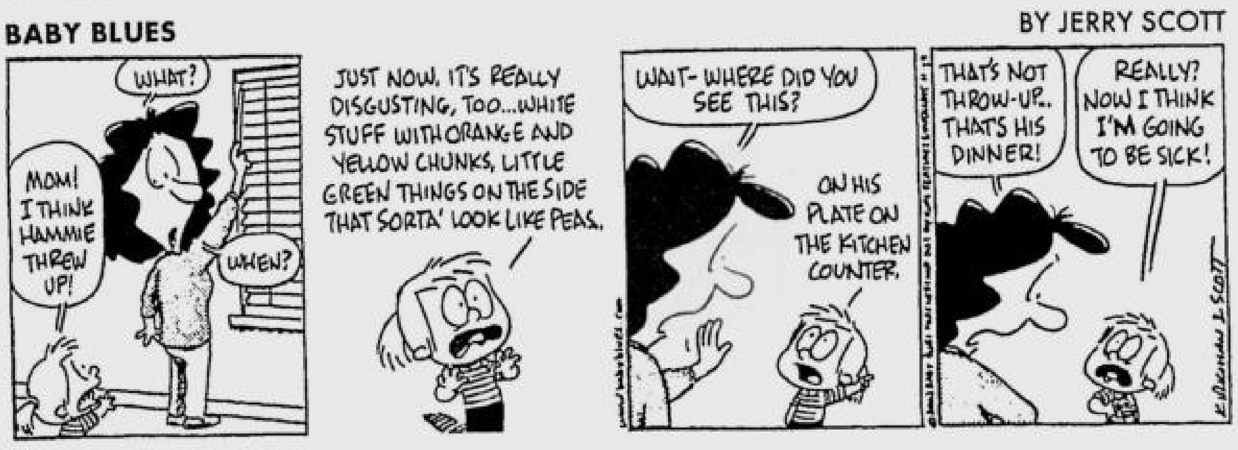
I GOT THOSE BUTT BARNACLE BALOOOOOS...
YOU KNOW, I THINK I MAY HAVE LEFT SOMETHING ON.
NO, I LEFT IT ON. I'LL GO.
http://www.slagoon.com
11-22

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WHAT?
MOM! I THINK HAMMIE THREW UP!
WHEN?
JUST NOW. IT'S REALLY DISGUSTING, TOO...WHITE STUFF WITH ORANGE AND YELLOW CHUNKS, LITTLE GREEN THINGS ON THE SIDE THAT SORTA' LOOK LIKE PEAS.
WAIT- WHERE DID YOU SEE THIS?
ON HIS PLATE ON THE KITCHEN COUNTER.
THAT'S NOT THROW-UP.. THAT'S HIS DINNER!
REALLY? NOW I THINK I'M GOING TO BE SICK!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Pat Benatar, Rod Stewart, William Sanderson, George Foreman, Shawn Colvin

Happy Birthday: Look out for yourself. Sort through the pros and cons of your current situation and make the necessary adjustments. Your ability to be diplomatic and encouraging will help you achieve all your goals. The slow, certain route will be to your advantage. It's only a matter of time before you are successful. Your numbers: 15, 28, 31, 37, 42, 48

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Lasting relationships will unfold if you are willing to take the time to get to know new acquaintances today. Don't take everything you're told literally. You may be getting false information.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): This will be a difficult day if you disagree with your boss or co-workers. You are not likely to win a debate and would be best off sticking to what you know best.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You will be in the mood to learn. Be sure you pick up reading material that will provide the information to complete jobs that you've been contemplating.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You can expect to have a problem with parents or grandparents. Try to take care of their needs, but not at the expense of neglecting your own family or personal responsibilities. Try to be positive when dealing with others.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You may find it difficult to talk to your partner if you have been experiencing a change of heart. This will be a make-or-break period in your relationship. Stay calm.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You will have the discipline and the desire to work hard in your chosen field. You can get recognition for your efforts if you present your work to superiors.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Problems are looming regarding youngsters. Take precautions if you wish to avoid the consequences. You should look into creative endeavors that you have wanted to try.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't allow others to put additional responsibilities on your plate. You should be making residential moves or alterations. Start renovation projects.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You can ask for favors and rely on others to help you today. Visit friends or become involved in projects that will allow you to meet new friends or lovers.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You may find yourself in a difficult situation at work today. Try not to take sides, and you will be offered a better position. Opportunities are obvious.

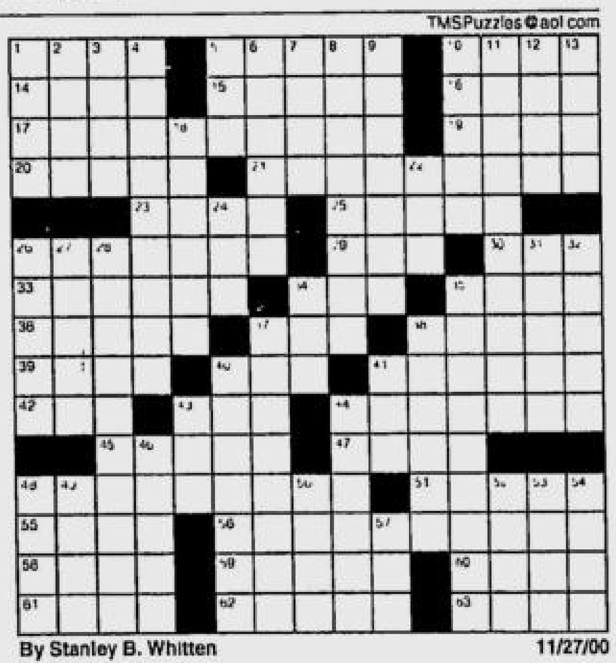
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't hold back. Say what you think. Your ability to get your point across will be appreciated even if others are not in total agreement with you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Take care of any minor health problems. You can do well if you deal with institutions today. Investments may not be as lucrative as they appear. Hold onto your cash.

Birthday Baby: You have a need to help others. You are intellectual, giving and eager to maintain the peace. Your generosity can lead you to the poorhouse if you aren't taught the value of a dollar at an early age.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Stanley B. Whitten
Highwood, IL
11/27/00

ACROSS
1 Musical postscript
5 One half step higher
10 Stitched
14 Hot box
15 St. John Perse
16 Poi source
17 Nostalgic location
19 Wife/sister of Osiris
20 First in quality
21 Religious convert
23 French girlfriend
25 Adam and Rebecca
26 Floral wreath
29 112.5-degrees from W
30 Also
33 Consecrate
34 Allow
35 Beat soundly
36 Portended
37 Oyster farm
38 Look after
39 Poetic works
40 Letters for 1051
41 Harsh
42 Natal starter?
43 Chinese revolutionary
44 Reproductive cells
45 Athenian lawgiver
47 Leafstalk angle
48 Singer of love songs
51 Namely
55 Wicked
56 Equine location
58 River to the Gulf of Finland
59 Actress Adoree
60 Charles Lamb
61 Three-spot
62 Idyllic gardens
63 Lucy's hubby

DOWN
1 Freebie
2 Ended
3 Actress Moore
4 Peculiar deviations
5 Clever
6 Assisted
7 Culture medium
8 Famous
9 Introduce
10 Wading bird
11 Well-to-do location
12 Formal document
13 Cyrano's distinction
18 Order back
22 Language end
24 $ from a bank
26 Libreville's country
27 Battery's negative electrode
28 Well-dressed cowboy's location?
31 Bizarre
32 Orchestra members
34 See 26A
35 Industrialized
37 Incarnadine
38 Babylonian, e.g.
40 Gruesome
41 Bird's horn?
43 Fellow
44 Flower plot
46 Kind of race
48 Transmitted
49 Always
50 "__ kleine Nachtmusik"
52 Corduroy characteristic
53 Addiction: suff.
54 Bangkok resident
57 Brown with a band

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

U	S	E	L	E	S	S	■	C	H	A	R	R	E	D
P	I	R	A	N	H	A	■	H	E	R	O	I	N	E
B	E	R	I	D	O	F	■	E	N	T	E	N	T	E
O	V	E	R	S	T	A	T	E	■	■	■	G	E	M
W	E	D	■	■	■	R	E	S	I	S	T	O	R	S
■	■	■	L	U	M	I	N	E	S	C	E	■	■	■
C	A	P	O	N	E	S	■	S	H	I	A	T	S	U
O	B	T	A	I	N	■	■	■	T	O	R	I	E	S
B	E	A	T	T	I	E	■	P	A	N	A	C	E	A
■	■	■	H	E	A	D	F	I	R	S	T	■	■	■
P	A	P	E	R	L	I	O	N	■	■	■	I	D	A
A	L	L	■	■	■	B	E	E	C	H	W	O	O	D
S	T	O	I	C	A	L	■	T	I	E	I	N	T	O
T	O	W	R	O	P	E	■	A	T	E	L	I	E	R
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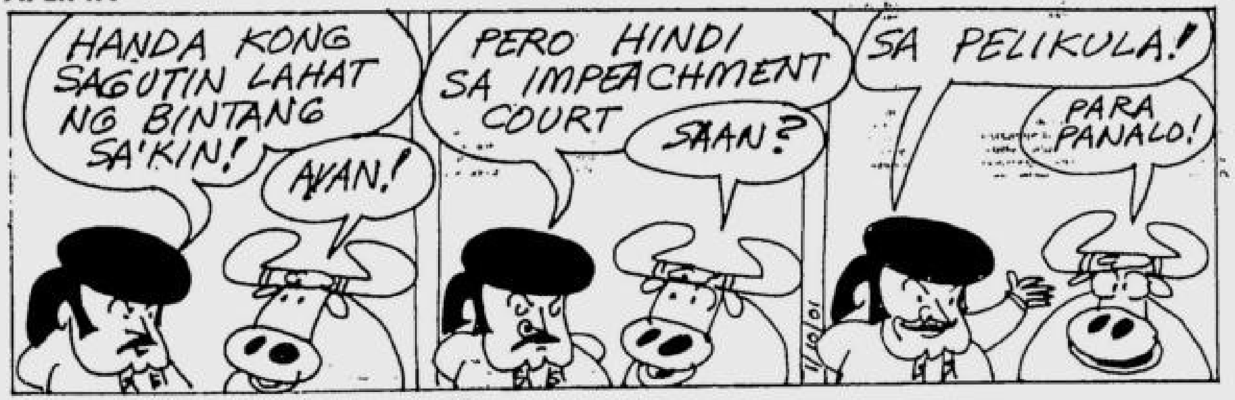
11/27/00

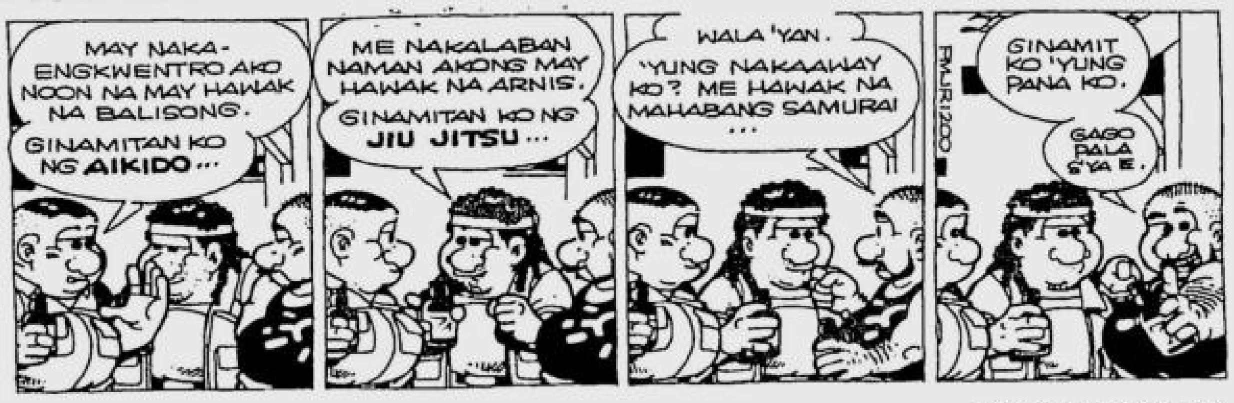
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


HANDA KONG SAGUTIN LAHAT NG BINTANG SA'KIN!
AYAN!
PERO HINDI SA IMPEACHMENT COURT
SAAN?
SA PELIKULA!
PARA PANALO!
1/10/01

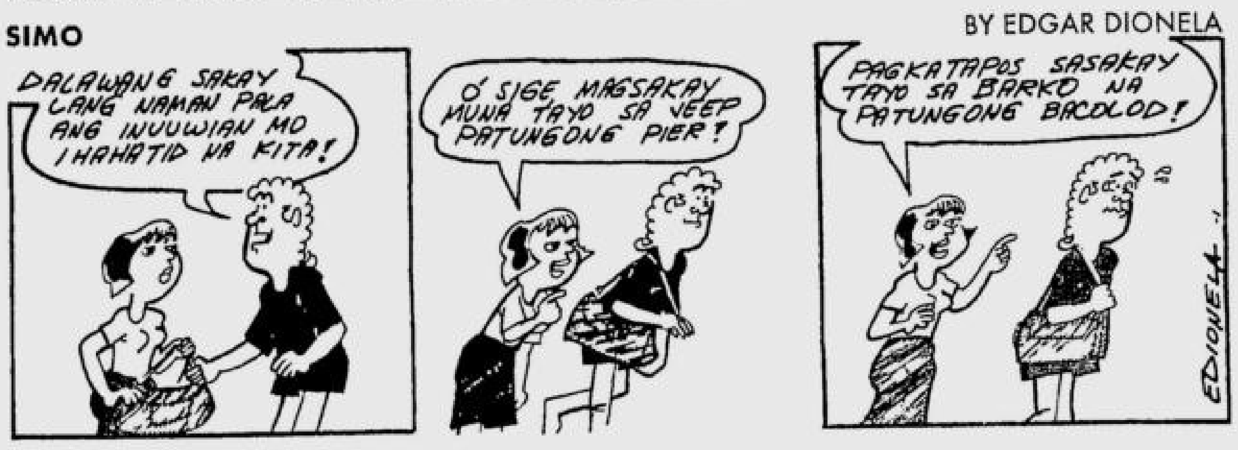
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


MAY NAKA-ENGKWENTRO AKO NOON NA MAY HAWAK NA BALISONG.
GINAMITAN KO NG AIKIDO...
ME NAKALABAN NAMAN AKONG MAY HAWAK NA ARNIS.
GINAMITAN KO NG JIU JITSU...
WALA 'YAN. 'YUNG NAKAAWAY KO? ME HAWAK NA MAHABANG SAMURAI...
PMJR1200
GINAMIT KO 'YUNG PANA KO.
GAGO PALA S'YA E.

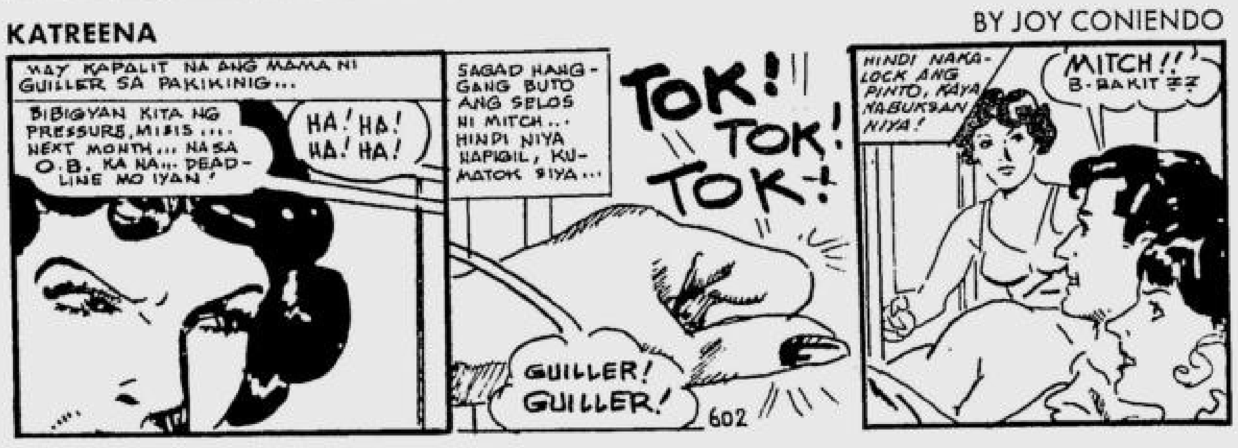
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


DALAWANG SAKAY LANG NAMAN PALA ANG INUUWIAN MO IHAHATID NA KITA!
O SIGE MAGSAKAY MUNA TAYO SA JEEP PATUNGONG PIER!
PAGKATAPOS SASAKAY TAYO SA BARKO NA PATUNGONG BACOLOD!
EDIONELA

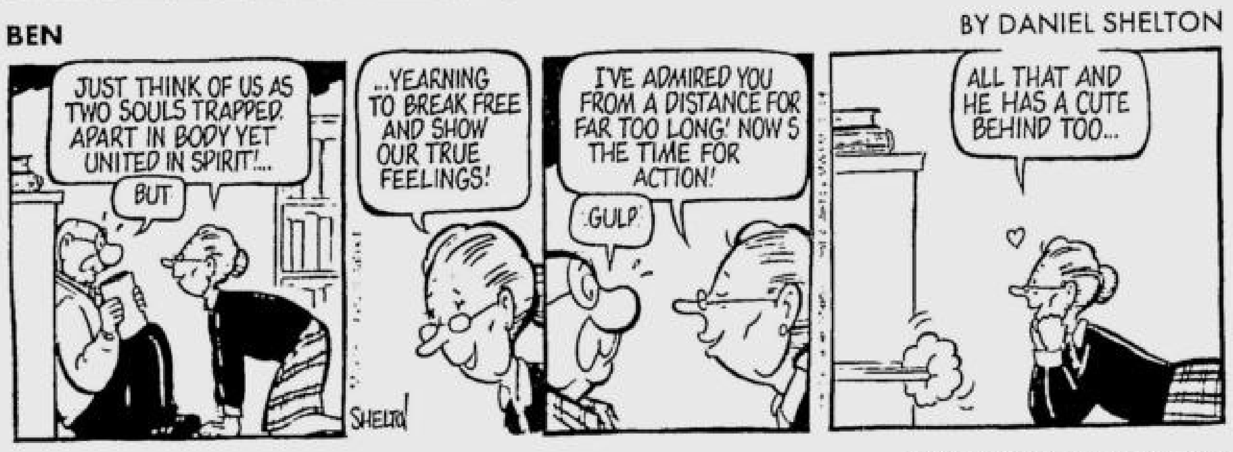
KATREENA

BY JOY CONIENDO


MAY KAPALIT NA ANG MAMA NI GUILLER SA PAKIKINIG...
BIBIGYAN KITA NG PRESSURE, MISIS.... NEXT MONTH... NASA O.B. KA NA... DEAD-LINE MO IYAN!
HA! HA! HA! HA!
SAGAD HANGGANG BUTO ANG SELOS NI MITCH... HINDI NIYA NAPIGIL, KUMATOK SIYA...
TOK! TOK! TOK!
GUILLER! GUILLER!
602
HINDI NAKA-LOCK ANG PINTO, KAYA NABUKSAN NIYA!
MITCH!! B-BAKIT ??

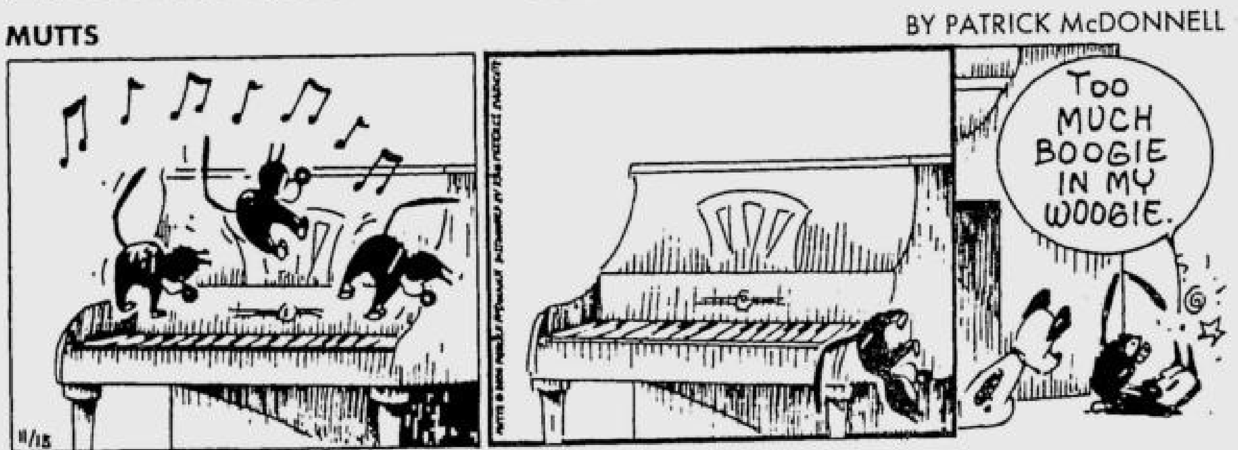
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


JUST THINK OF US AS TWO SOULS TRAPPED. APART IN BODY YET UNITED IN SPIRIT!...
BUT
...YEARNING TO BREAK FREE AND SHOW OUR TRUE FEELINGS!
I'VE ADMIRED YOU FROM A DISTANCE FOR FAR TOO LONG! NOW'S THE TIME FOR ACTION!
GULP
ALL THAT AND HE HAS A CUTE BEHIND TOO...
SHELTON

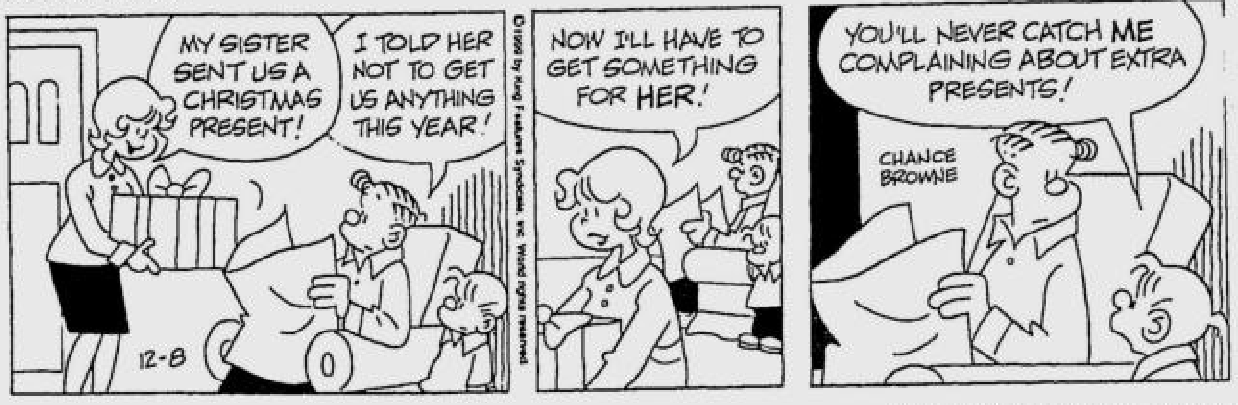
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


11/18
TOO MUCH BOOGIE IN MY WOOGIE.

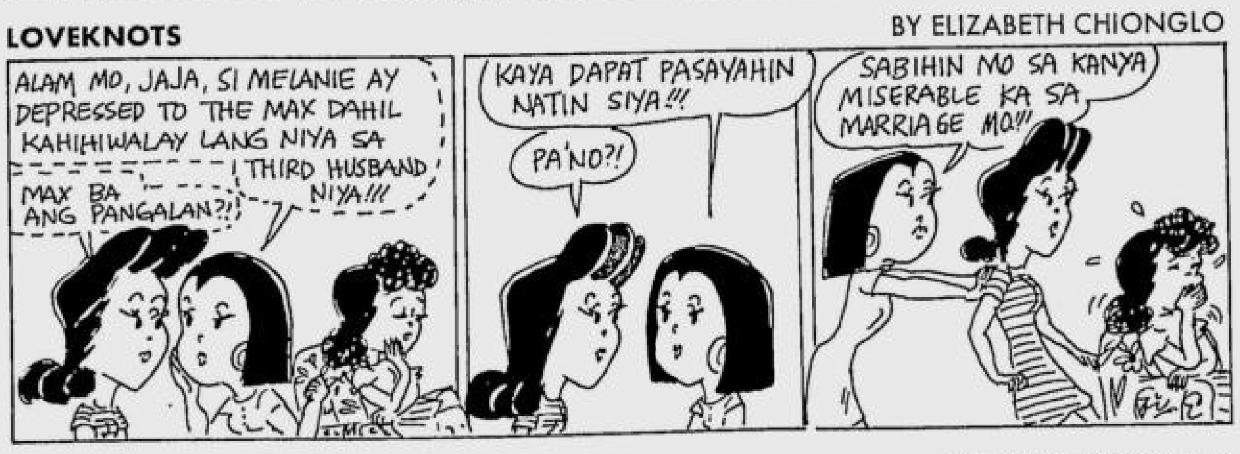
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


MY SISTER SENT US A CHRISTMAS PRESENT!
I TOLD HER NOT TO GET US ANYTHING THIS YEAR!
12-8
NOW I'LL HAVE TO GET SOMETHING FOR HER!
YOU'LL NEVER CATCH ME COMPLAINING ABOUT EXTRA PRESENTS!
CHANCE BROWNE

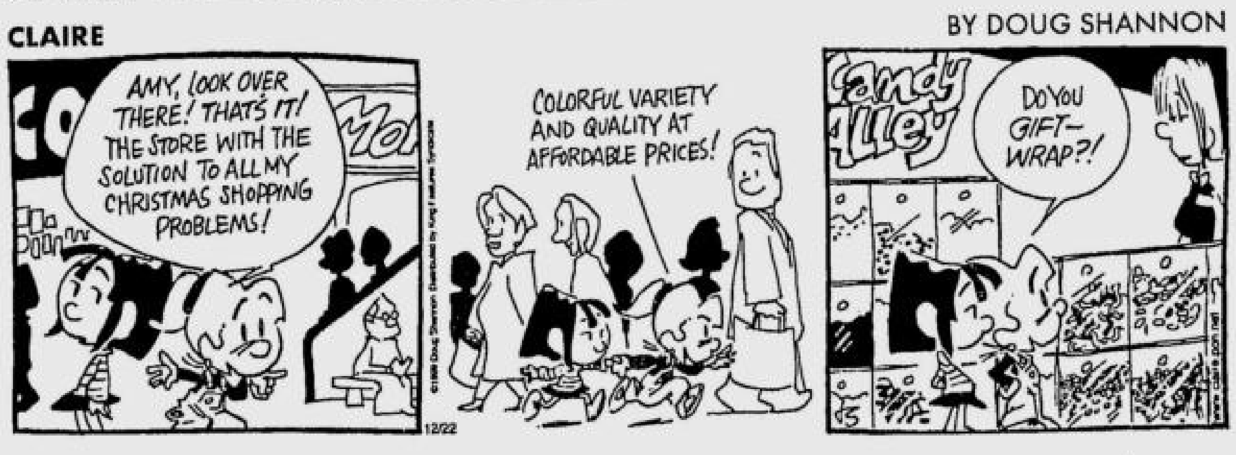
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ALAM MO, JAJA, SI MELANIE AY DEPRESSED TO THE MAX DAHIL KAHIHIWALAY LANG NIYA SA THIRD HUSBAND NIYA!!!
MAX BA ANG PANGALAN?!
KAYA DAPAT PASAYAHIN NATIN SIYA!!!
PA'NO?!
SABIHIN MO SA KANYA MISERABLE KA SA MARRIAGE MO!!!

CLAIRE

BY DOUG SHANNON


AMY, LOOK OVER THERE! THAT'S IT! THE STORE WITH THE SOLUTION TO ALL MY CHRISTMAS SHOPPING PROBLEMS!
COLORFUL VARIETY AND QUALITY AT AFFORDABLE PRICES!
Candy Alley
DO YOU GIFT-WRAP?!
12/22

A passionate affair with the Web

By Pamela Angela Salomon Pastor

EVERY writer knows this. It's hard to interview someone you know. Even more difficult if you know that person well. This was the dilemma I faced that Thursday afternoon, as I watched 24-year-old Drew Europeo take long drags at the cigarette she held in her left hand. We were sitting on the front steps of our office, where we have been working together for the past seven months.

Intimidating. This is the word that comes to mind when I remember the day I first met Drew. Clad in a gray and black outfit, her eyes rimmed with dark eyeliner, and her face constantly grim, she did not look approachable. We shared the same first impressions, since she used to think I was snooty. One day, we had a chance to talk about her 2-year-old son. That broke the ice. I began to get to know Drew the person. She has become a really good friend.

The interview went easier than expected. Comfortable and in her element, Drew was hilarious—and deep. I ended up learning more about her than I ever had before.

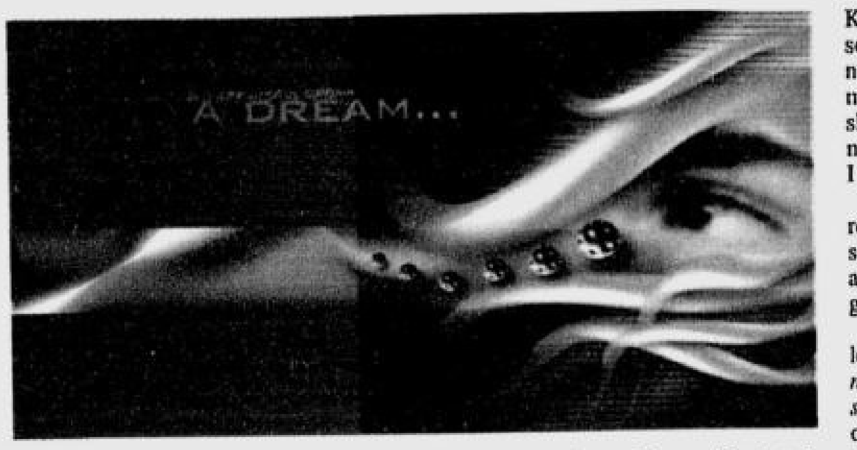
Love for art

Drew was 2 years old when she first discovered her love for art. "I was drawing houses and people then. I was 6 when my dad bought oil paint and brushes for me. I started copying Walt Disney characters. *May* perspective *na ako*. I'd be copying small drawings, but I could make them big." When she was in fourth grade at the Liceo de San Pedro in Laguna, she joined "Swan," their campus magazine, as an artist. She later on became the publication's art director when she was a high school senior.

During her childhood, she was active in joining art contests that she claims she never won. "I was always just the first-runner up. I was a senior in high school when I really won. In college, I attempted to join contests, but I never finished my paintings in time."

As a kid, she wanted to become an architect. "I was good in math. I guess that was the influence of my parents. My dad is a CPA and my mom is an accountant. But I also loved art. Someone told me that architecture was a mixture of art and math. I thought that was the perfect course for me. But everything changed when I became a high school senior." Drew ended up at the UST College of Architecture and Fine Arts and graduated with a bachelor's degree in fine arts major in advertising in 1997.

Immediately after college, she plunged into the real world—she started working for a small record company, producing labels for their CDs and cassettes. She stayed in this job for one year only due to location problems. During this time, she had no idea what the Internet was all about. But her boss-to-be at Infodyne saw her potential. She clinched the job with her confidence. "He asked me, 'But can you do HTML (hyper text markup language)?' I said, 'No. But I can learn fast.' "



Drew was given two weeks to study and was assigned to do one project as a test. The clients liked it. Her study was cut short because her projects never stopped coming. "I instead learned through the process." She soon became the company's senior Web designer. One of her clients, Enrique Gonzalez, was so impressed with her work that he invited her to join a company he was starting—Adobo Interactive. This was after Drew designed Balikbayanmail.com for him.

The few years Drew has spent dabbling online has been enough to turn her into one of the more visible personalities in the Philippine Internet scene. Her personal website, gra-Fi-KAS (www.grafikas.com), was a finalist in the Arts category of the 1999 Philippine Web Awards.

In the beginning, the site did not even have a name. The contents were just stored in Drew's directory at work. Things changed when she met Cem Gul, a Turkish designer who became her mentor.

"In the process of training, I was able to come up with a lot of artworks. He encouraged me to design through my senses. It was during that process that I also tried to dabble in writing. That was when I started thinking about putting up my own site. I came up with gra-Fi-KAS."

The name holds a deep meaning for her. " 'Gra' stands for graphics, and I used small letters because it's an English word. 'Fi' means that I'm a Filipino designer. 'KAS' means that when you go down to your roots, you are Filipino. That's why the letter 'k' instead of 'c' was used. Tagalog *na* Tagalog. The dashes are important for me—because the syllables have different meanings."

Emotionally involved

Year 2000 was a fantastic year for Drew. Gra-Fi-KAS became a semi-finalist for the Arts Category, while her new baby, Half Project (www.half-project.com) became a finalist. This was in the 3rd Philippine Web Awards. The site she works full-time for, Adobo.com, was hailed Portal of the Year by the same award-giving body. And, she actively participated in the said awards as a judge for the other categories. "Half Project was something Zoo, Berger, Jason, Ray and I started. Its first name was Waxbucket. It's a design community. Its focus is on design. But it didn't push through immediately. After two weeks, Zoo contacted me and asked me if I was still interested in the collaborations. The concept was everything would be divided between us. I would make my rendition, he would make his own, and when we put our works together, everything would be whole."

Wasn't this difficult? "It was hard, we had no idea what the other would be doing. When I'm doing my part, sometimes, I'm thinking, *bakit ganun? Parang hindi buo.* We actually don't know how it happens, but it always looks whole when we put it together. Since the concept is that everything is divided, we chose the name Half Project."

In the beginning, most of the supporters of Half Project were from the international scene. It was only when the site was nominated in the Webbys that it started to catch the attention of a lot of Filipino designers. Because of this, more and more people have been interacting in the site. Since its launch five months ago, Half Project has had over 200,000 visitors. Now, the site receives an average of 700 hits every day.

Aside from the several sites Drew has created, she also began an organization of Filipino Web designers with Jose Illenberger (www.redberger.com). "Berger and I were both finalists in the '99 Webbys. He contacted me. During that time, I was already thinking about forming an organization for Web designers. He had the same idea. We decided to put our ideas together. We chose 'Weavers' because that's what the spider does—it weaves the web. We chose the word 'Phil' to emphasize that the members are Filipinos. We started to e-mail finalists of the awards. We had 50 founding members." Today, there are around 200 members.

Aside from these, Drew also does freelance work. "Mostly illustrations and a few websites."

With all the projects Drew has, one can expect her schedule to be insanely tight. But she manages—with a lot of sacrifices, of course. "I allot office hours for Adobo, where I am the art director. When I get home, I focus on Half Project. Sometimes my Gra-Fi-KAS becomes stagnant because I get so busy. It needs major redesigning now. Sometimes, when there are so many things I have to do, I just don't sleep. I allot time for all the work. I make sure I meet my client's deadlines. I try to accommodate everything."

Webmaster, Web designer, art director—so many titles for just one person. What does Drew call herself? "I'm an artist," she said nonchalantly, shrugging her shoulders.

Despite the heavy workload, Drew loves her jobs. "Since I'm a visual artist, *nalalabas ko kung ano 'yung nakikita ko sa utak ko.* I can beautify things that other people consider ugly. I always have to be involved emotionally in the projects I work on—whether they're personal or commercial. I couldn't work if my emotions aren't ready for the project. I do it through senses. That's what my mentor taught me. Even if you're depressed, there always has to be output. And since I'm very emotional, *gusto ko 'yun.* Sometimes, when I'm depressed, I'm able to produce more. But that's not good, since you're using your negative energy."

Doesn't that drain her? "It does. Believe it or not, I was crying while I was doing gra-Fi-KAS. Right in the middle of the night, I'd work and start crying. In Half Project, it's the same thing."

What doesn't she like about her job? "If I were rich, I'd either paint or do digital art full time. I'd just be a visual artist. But since I'm not, commercial work is inevitable. This limits you as an artist. Sometimes, the clients just get you as someone to execute what they want. They won't give you the freedom to do what you want."

Drew is very passionate about her love affair with the World Wide Web. "*Sobrang-sobrang mahal ko ang* Internet. Gra-Fi-KAS, Philweavers, Half Project and Adobo. Those are the four very, very important things for me—as a person, in my career and as an artist."

She went on. "My biggest break was in the Internet industry. I never made a breakthrough as a painter. The only people who knew I painted were my friends and relatives. The Internet gave me a chance. And because the competition is intense, I don't compete with other people. I compete with myself. I try to break free from the traditional perspectives I've used before."

I asked her, "What if there was no Internet?" Drew's eyes grew wide and she said loudly, "*Maloloka ako!*"

Supportive family

Drew's family supports her craft—especially her 28-year-old husband Nigel, who is a Web developer and her son Cholo who, at the age of 2, is already an aspiring artist/programmer. "He knows how to shut down Windows properly. He doodles in my Adobe Photoshop and has deleted my work many times. He loves electronics—he likes pressing buttons."

Drew's parents have yet to learn the ins and outs of the Internet, but she has patiently been trying to explain the whole idea to them. "My dad has always been very supportive of me. I can see their eagerness to learn about the new technology."

She spends almost the whole day in front of the PC. If not working, visiting her favorite websites: cmart.design.ru, www.endless.org/dreamline, www.brittlebones.com, www.cemgul. com.

When not in front of the PC, she likes playing with her son, shopping, painting, listening to Madonna, Moby, Massive Attack and Bjork and taking photos with her digicam. She also hangs out at Coffee Beans, her brother's café in San Pedro, Laguna.

Ask Drew about her plans for the future and she'll rattle off a whole list of things. "I'll be continuing everything. Enhancements. I want to take a masteral degree in the US and I want to take a multimedia course. I want to take care of my son's future. I will never neglect him."

If she could be anywhere else now, where would she be? "Any place where artists are given recognition, respect and appreciation." Asked to use just one word to describe herself, Drew stared off into space for several silent minutes before she spoke. "Passionate."

And what inspires this passionate artist? "My son. He's my main inspiration."

parent trapped
ms. merit answers

Q You suggested healthy food for a healthy mind. Please reprint it. ADG

Gearing up for the weeklong third quarter exams? Check out what your child eats beforehand because what they eat will certainly affect their performance. Their body needs the right food combination to function at its best.

The night before : Choose foods high in complex carbohydrates and soluble fiber. These foods have stabilizing effects on the blood-sugar levels so there is a constant flow of energy. Don't forget also to include fruits and vegetables which are rich in antioxidants. The antioxidants enhances blood flow to the brain.
Sample menu :
Rice with a choice of entrees like sinigang fish or pork, steam chicken, or pochero, etc. with vegetables such as pechay, cabbage, kangkong stir fried in garlic.

The morning : Don't skip on breakfast. According to some studies done in the U.S., "People who skip breakfast do worse on exams." If food during the early morning makes your child gag, make them drink at least a glass of chocolate milk with a piece of pan de sal or toast. That way, they will stay focus on the test and not get distracted by a grumbling stomach.
Sample menu : Champorado, Lugao with egg, Hotcake, Rice with sausage with juice.

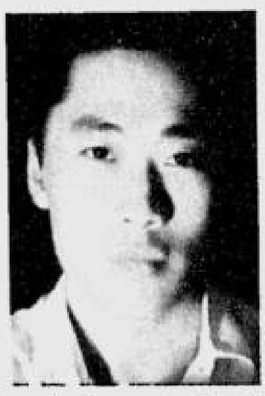
While you are checking their pencils, eraser, scratch papers, do not forget their baon. Eating a light snack during their recess will keep blood-sugar levels from falling.
Sample fare : peanuts, raisins, crackers, petite sandwiches, pastries, fresh fruits, etc: etc.

Please send your questions to merit paper products, parent trapped, 88 Samson Road, cor MPL Road, Sucat, Muntinlupa City, or fax us at 02.842.1626. ADVT.

Learning . . .

(From page C3)

TWENTY-THREE-YEAR-OLD Jaime Enrique Yuchengco Gonzalez started making websites in mid-1998 after graduating from Middlebury College and Boston University. He founded a Web development company in Boston, which developed the first flash site for the Philippines (Tagaytay Highlands) and the first e-commerce B2C site (La Flor De La Isabella). He started Adobo Interactive with other young people just about a year ago. The site, Ado-bo.com, won Best Portal of the Year in last year's Webby Awards while his company's other sites, Balikbayanmail.com, today.net.ph, thepost.com.ph, whatson-expat.com.ph, booze.com.ph, iadobo.com, slamphil.com, maxibear.com, were also nominated. Eg is inspired by leading industry leaders such as amazon.com, aol.com and yahoo.com. He hopes to establish adobo.com as a leader in the Philippines to inspire young talents to pursue a career in the IT industry. His tips:



- Define your objectives.
- Define what you want your website to do for your business.
- Check out the competition. Use Internet search engines.
- Content is king. Define it. What would your target market want to read?
- Design the structure of your site. The page or site design should be simple and easy to navigate.
- Make it easy for visitors to contact you via your website. Include an e-mail link and establish internal procedures to handle all inquiries.
- Register your site with major Web search engines and directories.
- Include topics of interest on your site, such as weekly tips and trends.
- Make the promotion of your site an integral part of your marketing program both online and off.
- Don't forget about website maintenance. Keep your website current.

EDWARD Maravilla, better known as Moose, is 24-year-old graduate of Ateneo and UP. He joined K2ia a year ago. He designed www.k2ia.com and www.musicmanila.com using Adobe and Macromedia software. His inspirations? "The silence you hear in the office after midnight, Barber's Adagio for strings and the vibrating Winnie the Pooh I got in Hong Kong."

- In the design, there are such things as happy accidents. Learn from your mistakes.
- Try doing a print project like a poster or a brochure once in a while. Don't limit yourself to Web design.
- Clients will never go for "I chose this design because it's nice!"
- Have a camera. Use it as often as you can.
- HTML is your friend. WYSIWYG's are spawns of the fifth malebolgia.
- If you see Buddha coming down the road, kill him. There is no Enlightened One in Web design.
- Do your research. Design begins even before you pick up a pen (or a mouse for that matter).
- "The plural of a computer mouse is mouses not mice."—from "Wired Style: Principles of English Usage in the Digital Age," by Constance Hale
- If you're going to copy, at least make it look original (or give the guy credit for his hard work).
- "Don't join award competitions. Just don't. It's not good for you."—from "Incomplete Manifesto for Growth," by Bruce Mau

WE also got tidbits from the staff of Femalenetwork.com and Candymag.com, which is headed by Therese Ng. Candymag.com received two awards at the Philippine Web Awards 2000—for the News & E-zine and Community categories, while Femalenetwork.com got the People's Choice Award for Home & Living.

Your brain should be a sponge and your mind should always be open. With the Web, possibilities are virtually limitless, so you'll have to accommodate all that and apply it to your work. Being rigid, conventional and narrow-minded in Web development are out of the question.—**Binky Belardo, 24, editorial assistant**

Draft your website on paper before doing any computer work. Benefit? You can imagine the flow of your website. Plus, you can easily add new pages and see if it fits the theme of your website.—**Fritz, 22, systems administrator**

The site structure should be visible on every page. Always use Web safe colors. Always remember that low file size means fast download.—**Joey, 26, Web designer**

Don't be afraid to hear other people's ideas, opinions, or comments. Document everything for future reference. This will keep you from repeating the same mistakes.—**Pauline, 23, associate producer**

Writing for the Web means writing nice and tight. Go straight to the point. Avoid useless words. If there is a website that explains further what you wrote about, hyperlink to that site.—**Minnette, 25, managing editor**

Always, always, always check your spelling! Say it again! Say it with me! Spell check! Spell check! Spell check! Oh, don't forget to check whether your links are all working!—**May, 24, editorial assistant**

Reach for the stars so that if you fall you'll land on the roof. With writing and art, please your audience more than yourself.—**Maia, 26, editor in chief**

Find inspiration from books, people, places or even other websites.—**Shaine, 25, Web designer**

Don't be afraid to experiment.—**Cherry, 25, Web applications developer**

Keep your site sticky (i.e., generating a lot of repeat visits) by updating content regularly and encouraging user interaction through bulletin boards, a guestbook, a chatroom, feedback forms, games, etc.—**Therese, 28, producer**

Pamela Angela Salomon Pastor

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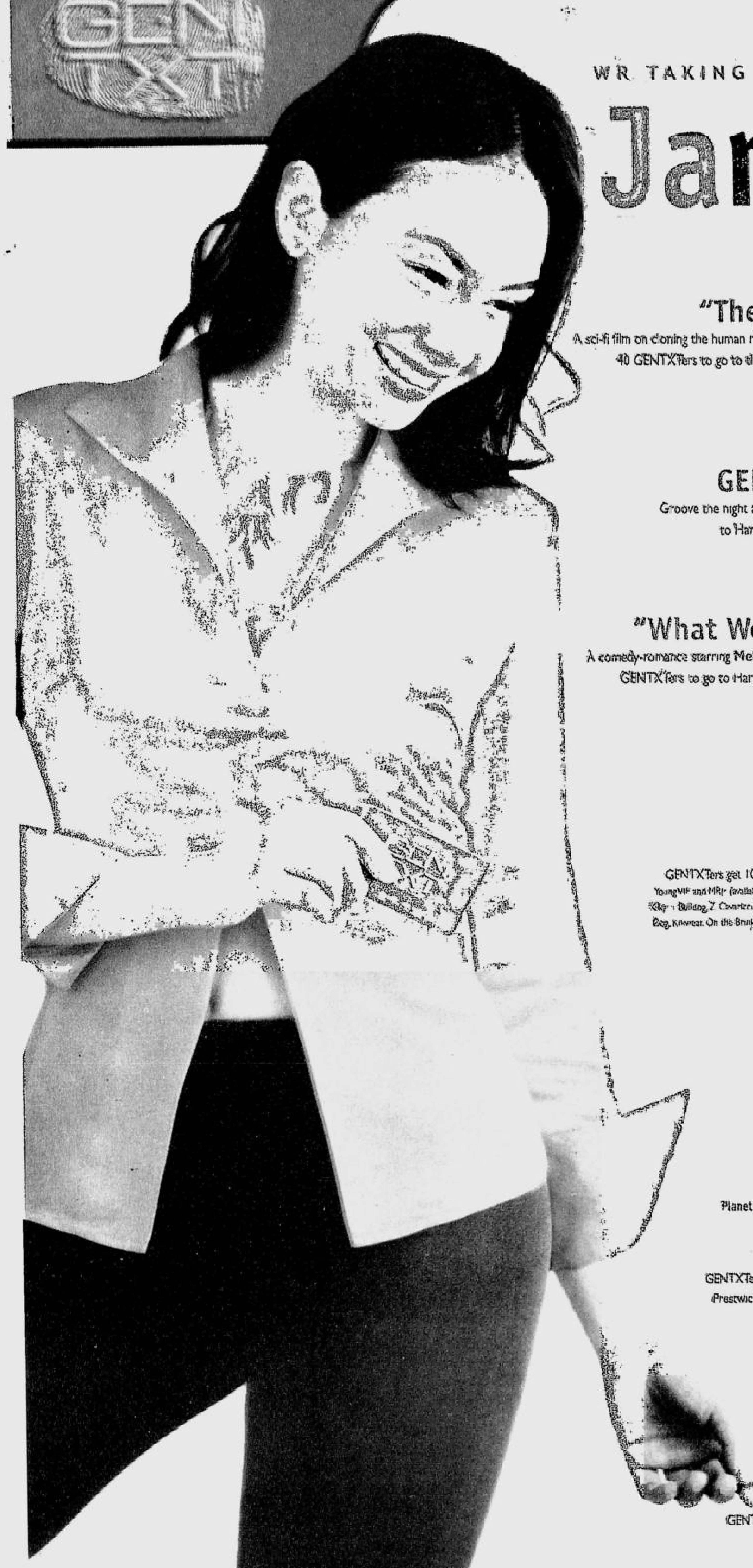


WR TAKING U R KIND OF FUN 2D GENTXT LEVEL

January Gig Guide

"The Sixth Day", Advanced Screening

02

A sci-fi film on cloning the human race starring **Arnold Schwarzenegger**. Be one of the first lucky 40 GENTXTers to go to the GENTXT Booth at Glorietta (near Burger King) and Greenbelt starting December 27.

>> Greenhills Theater - 7:30 PM

GENTXT Crossover Live Party

18

Groove the night away in this spirited party. Be one of the first 15 GENTXTers to go to Harrison Communications* to get a pair of tickets starting January 13.

>> Chef & Brewer, Ortigas - 9:00 PM

"What Women Want", Advanced Screening

29

A comedy-romance starring **Mel Gibson, Helen Hunt** and **Marisa Tomei**. Be one of the first 45 GENTXTers to go to Harrison Communications* to get a pair of tickets starting January 25.

>> SM Megamall - 7:30 PM

New Partners

This year opens with more establishments for GENTXTers to enjoy!

Rustan's Department Store

GENTXTers get 10% off on all regular cash purchases of Young Adult brands at Rustan's Department Store: Young VIP and MRJ (available in [illegible] branches - Makati, Shangri-la Plaza, [illegible] Plaza, Alabang [illegible] Dollhouse, Paris Blues, Free People, Kikay [illegible] Bulldog, Z Quarters, [illegible] Madd Jeans and Tops, Ultimate Swimwear, Tango Rosa, Daily Rebel Beach, Point Zero, BC Ethics, Woodst Dog, Knowear, On the Brink, La Rue Bags, Studio 18 [illegible] Bags and Shoes [illegible] Madden Shoes and Accessories [illegible] Rocket Dog, [illegible], Nuova, Habitat and [illegible] and Alibang.

Discovery Spa

GENTXTers get free manicure/pedicure for every full body massage at Discovery Spa, Ortigas Center, on cash and credit card payments. Not valid for any other offer.

Art Avenue

GENTXTers get 15% off on cash purchases and 5% off on credit at Art Avenue, Pearl Drive, Ortigas Center.

Planet Mars

Every GENTXTer and one guest get free entrance every evening until twelve midnight at Planet Mars, A.S. Arnaiz Avenue (formerly Pasay Road). Not valid during special events or shows.

Pro Golf

GENTXTers get 10% off on specific golf equipment (Excalibur, Kunnan, Mitsushiba, Uniqa, Horizon and Prestwick), free swing analysis and custom club fitting. Golf lessons available with prior appointment at Pro Golf, Park Square, Alabang Town Center and Shangri-la Mall.

ck Calvin Klein and Nautica

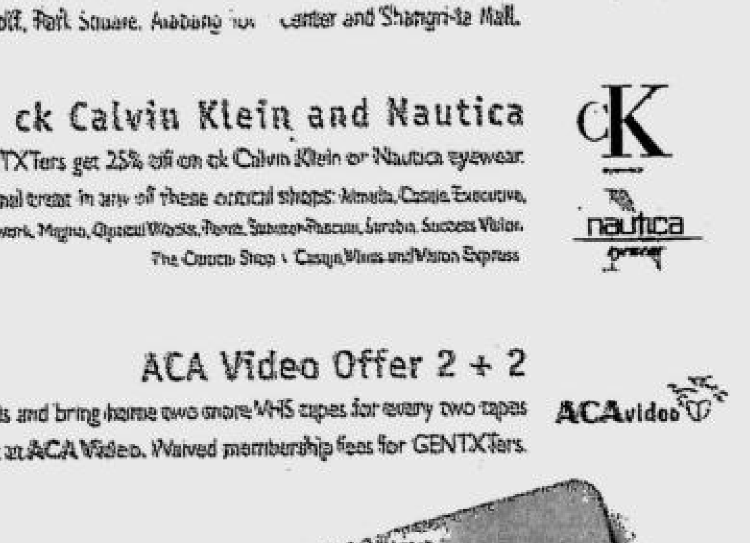
GENTXTers get 25% off on ck Calvin Klein or Nautica eyewear.

Avail of this sensational treat in any of these optical shops: Almeda, Cosmo Executive, George, Good Vision, Lensmark, Magna, Optical Works, Perez, Sabater-Pascua, Sarabia, Success Vision, The Optical Shop, Casaje, Vims and Vision Express.

ACA Video Offer 2 + 2

GENTXTers flash their GENTXT cards and bring home two more VHS tapes for every two tapes they rent at ACA Video. Waived membership fees for GENTXTers.

*HARRISON COMMUNICATIONS is at the 4F First Life Center Bldg., 174 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City. Look for GENTXTer Cecille, flash your GENTXT card, and get your free tickets.



Your GENTXT card is your passport to free invites, exclusive events and privileges and bigger discounts.

It's so easy to get a GENTXTcard. All active Globe Handyphone Plan and Prepaid Plus subscribers between 18 and 29 years old are eligible to get the card. Simply bring along the following:

- Valid ID with photo, signature and indication of birthday like a driver's license and SSS ID
- If ID has no indication of birthday, please bring an ID with your picture and the document bearing your birthdate (e.g. community tax certificate, SSS Card, birth, marriage or baptismal certificate).
- Membership fee of P200 to be paid upon approval of application.

For Plan Subscribers:
One of the last two months paid/settled Globe Handyphone bill.
For Prepaid Plus Subscribers:
P1,500 worth of used Globe Handyphone Prepaid Plus call cards.

You can get and submit your application forms at all Globe Telecom Business Centers and at selected GENTXT events.

You can also get the latest GENTXT gig guide from InfoText by keying-in GENTXT and sending it to 2333.

Check out the latest **GENTXT** events through your Globe Handyphone. Just key in **GENTXT**, then send to 2333.

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